



# Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 29, Number 1

Jan/Feb/Mar  
2015

## Message From the Dean

Hello Friends and Organists,

The New Year has come and gone, the groundhog has seen his shadow, and we are turning the corner into the Season of Lent. Time keeps ticking along and here I am again, writing an article to share.

I recently received a request from Barbara Adler, the treasurer on the AGO National Council. She asked if I would “reinforce the fundraising appeal that appeared in the November issue of TAO Magazine.” She writes, “When I asked everyone to donate at least \$1 per month, or \$12 each year, I hoped that everyone would contribute this affordable amount, although many of our members already give more. If you calculate \$12 from each of 15,000 members, this annual revenue would total \$180,000!!! With our diminishing membership rolls, this revenue could help keep us in the black and able to continue our educational and outreach programs as well as the beneficial services we offer our members.”

The programs the Annual Fund makes possible for our membership include: Certification programs, the catalogue of educational materials, support for POEs (Pipe Organ Encounters) and January Jubilees, travel for volunteer leaders’ meetings and visits to chapters, the Chapter Management Handbook, Website and job postings, and the National Online Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD). That is a lot of support for AGO members that comes along with our memberships. If we value the programs that our organization provides, perhaps we

can show our appreciation with some extra dollars. I am happy to pass along the message as Barbara requested. She welcomes questions if you have them, and she can be contacted at:  
Barbara.Adler@gmail.com.

Please show your support of our local chapter by offering to help with one of our programs during the year! Our next AGO event is “Basically British” to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm. Local organists will be playing works by British composers. If you would like to share a piece of music, take tickets, help with publicity, design posters or programs....we need you! To successfully promote our concerts we need lots of “worker bees.” These things don’t fall into place by accident. And, of course, please attend our programs! Invite friends, co-workers, members of your congregations, students that you may teach, etc. We need to reach out and spread the love of organ music to the next generation. Without that outreach, our organization will not grow or survive.

So our shared 2015 resolutions could be to support our National AGO with our dollars, and to support our local chapter of AGO with our talents and time.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and for thinking about how you can keep AGO a meaningful organization which will continue to support organists, present and future.

*Sally Harmon*, RRVAGO Dean

### 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: Sally Harmon  
Sub-Dean: Bill Tweten  
Secretary: Robyn Vinje  
Treasurer: Jean Roberts

### Board Members at Large

2015: Sonia Carlson  
2016: Jim Gurney  
2017: Alpha Roeszler

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## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting January 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Dean Sally Harmon. Other Board members present were Bill Tweten, Alpha Roeszler, Sonia Carlson, Jean Roberts, and Robyn Vinje.

The secretary's minutes of the December meeting were distributed electronically previously. The motion to approve them was seconded and carried.

Jean reported that all bills for the Organized Rhythm concert in October have been paid. The offering received at the December Sing-a-Long was \$244 which she submitted to the Emergency Food Pantry. The balance on hand in the checking account is \$3,821.76.

Dr. Bacon's organ concert at Trinity Lutheran Church will be scheduled for sometime in April. We previously approved contributing \$250 for this.

The main topic of discussion was the Basically British program to be given at Trinity on March 15th at 4:00 PM. Bill volunteered to have a membership booth at the concert, in hopes of adding members. Sally will serve as MC, and Andrew Steinberg will be the chair of the program. Members who might be interested and willing to play were discussed. Andrew will follow up with them.

For publicity, Ruth Discher will be asked to design a poster, and Boulger will print them as well as the programs. We will submit the information to The Forum for the arts calendar. We discussed the possibility of purchasing advertising in The Forum but no decision was made.

Andrew Steinberg came to the meeting to discuss the March program. As mentioned previously, he will chair the program and contact participants.

The next Board meeting will be Friday, February 6th, at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robyn Vinje, Secretary

## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting February 6, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Dean Sally Harmon. Other board members present were Alpha Roeszler, Bill Tweten, and Robyn Vinje. Andrew Steinberg was also present to discuss the Basically British program at Trinity Lutheran on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM, which he is chairing.

The secretary's minutes were previously distributed to the board members electronically.

Jean Roberts, treasurer, was not present, but had indicated to Sally that there has been no treasury activity in the past month. Sally stated that she sent \$10 to the state for the tax-free status fee, for which she will be requesting reimbursement.

The first item of business was the March 15<sup>th</sup> program. Andrew stated that he will be playing two pieces, and other organists playing will be Bill Tweten, Susan Clambey, Jean Hillner (2 pieces). There will be a congregational hymn, and the senior pastor at Trinity, Pastor Simon, will be speaking.

Andrew will have the staff at Trinity prepare the poster, which will be copied by Boulger Funeral Home at no charge to us. Robyn will contact The Forum about including the information in City Briefs, and the Arts Calendar. Andrew will have the information included on the Trinity website, and will share on Facebook.

Bill volunteered to have an AGO display prior to the concert. Alpha will contact Ruth Discher about including an article in *The Pipeline*.

Sally announced that from now on, dues will be due on a rotating basis, based on the anniversary date of the member's joining AGO.

Sally read a letter from Wayne Leupold regarding the possibility of holding a workshop and music sale here. No action was taken.

Andrew announced that Dr. Joel Bacon's concert at Trinity will be held Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM.

The May AGO meeting will be a potluck and music exchange at First Presbyterian at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Next Board meeting and lunch March 6.

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## **“Basically British” Recital**

Once again we find our area in the midst of another alliterative acoustical affair aptly aimed at Anglo’s audible achievements! All that being said, we are celebrating the rich trove of British music for the organ at Trinity Lutheran on March 15th at 2pm.

The organ has long been a part of music making in England, mostly lending itself to hymn and choral accompaniment, but there are some great pieces that have been left to the organ alone.

Some of the composers who will be featured : Kenneth Leighton, Ralph Vaughn-Williams, Edward Elgar, Gustav Holst, and others.

As I have thought about repertoire in preparation for this recital, I could not help but think about the very German Baroque design of the Holtkamp at Trinity, and because of that we will also have a piece of most likely one of the greatest Anglophiles in the Baroque, George Handel.

Another notable piece to this British party will be Pastor Simon Fensom (senior pastor at Trinity, and a Brit!) as Master of Ceremony. He has agreed to provide the voice for our program notes for this event, so we are truly bringing all that is British in the FM area to our event.

Hope to see you there!

*Submitted by Andrew Steinberg*

## **Guest Artist Recital at Trinity Lutheran Church—Moorhead**

On April 19th at 4 pm, Trinity will be hosting Dr. Joel Bacon for an organ recital. Dr. Bacon holds degrees in mathematics and organ performance from Baylor University in Waco, TX, where he was a student of Joyce Jones, and an artist diploma in organ from the Konservatorium der Stadt Wien, where he studied with Michael Gailit. With a dissertation on the use of organ in selected orchestral works, he earned his PhD in historical musicology through a joint degree program of Vienna’s University of Music and Performing Arts and the University of Vienna. Joel Bacon has a growing reputation as a performer, teacher, and scholar in North

America and Europe. He has been heard in recital in Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, Canada, and the US, and live performances have been broadcast on Austrian Radio and Public Radio International. He has taught at the prestigious Oundle International Festival (Cambridge, UK), at several Pipe Organ Encounters and at other courses in the US and Canada.

Mr. Bacon currently holds the Stewart and Sheron Golden Chair in Organ and Liturgical Studies at Colorado State University. Before coming to CSU, he was assistant organist of St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Munich-Grunwald, and served as frequent guest organist at the former Hapsburg imperial church, St. Augustine, Vienna. I studied with Dr. Bacon in Colorado and continue to help him put into implementation the CSU Celebration of Organ Week, which is going into its third year. The week long program brings internationally known artists for a week of recitals and teaching to young participants. It is a pleasure to have Dr. Bacon come to Trinity for this recital. Mark you calendars. You will not want to miss this!!

*Submitted by Andrew Steinberg*

## **Prairie Public Meets the Organ**

Last fall I was approached by Prairie Public Television to make a short film with them introducing the organ. We started with a piece for organ and narrator with the intent of making the film for children as an educational tool. After many hours of shooting, recording, and editing, the project is almost ready to launch. They were able to make two versions of the film, one is the entirety of the piece for narrator and organ (about 9 minutes) which will be distributed through the education department of PPTV, and the other is a shorter 5-6 minute clip of playing and interview for a wider and older audience, which will be the version that will be airing throughout the PPTV network.

When the piece is ready to air, there will be a launch party with all involved showing off the project. Stay tuned for information about the launch!

*Submitted by Andrew Steinberg*

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|| From the North Central Regional Newsletter by

|| Marilyn Schempp, Councillor for the North Central Region

|| The North Central Region mourned the loss of the following AGO members in 2014—past Wichita dean, Carroll Hassman, Carl Staplin who had served as the professor of organ and church music at Drake University in Des Moines, and Minnesota composer Stephen Paulus. Stephen was the AGO Composer of the Year when our national convention was in the Twin Cities. The November 2014 TAO has a very nice article about Carl Staplin.

|| If you know of talented young organists who might be interested in competing in our AGO/Quimby Regional Young Artist Competition in St. Louis this summer, please encourage them. Jeff Verkuilen, our new Regional Competition Coordinator, has chapters lined up for hosting our local competitions. They are Milwaukee, Central Iowa, Twin Cities, Wichita, and Kansas City.

|| It is now possible to register for our regional convention in St. Louis this summer. I hope you will bring an organist friend and plan on attending. Check out the events on their website at [ago2015.org](http://ago2015.org). Also discuss with your chapter whether you might consider supporting their convention through a financial gift in support of a concert, workshop, or ad in the program book. Much of this information is on their website or you can contact their chair, Andrew Peters, at [music@secondchurch.net](mailto:music@secondchurch.net).

|| Wichita is planning their Pipe Organ Encounter for June 14-19, 2015. Along with St. Louis, they could also use the financial support of our regional chapters. Marlene Hallstrom ([mhallstrom@cox.net](mailto:mhallstrom@cox.net)) is the director for this POE. Not only will they need your financial support, but be thinking about young students that might be interested in attending. And, of course, I am looking for a chapter to host a POE in the summer of 2016 (or later!). I would be happy to come and visit with your chapter about this outreach possibility. The deadline for applying to host a 2016 POE would be March 2015. Information can be found on the national website.

|| I was just looking through our most recent edition of the TAO and would love to see more of the North Central events listed in the AGO Chapter News. Don't forget to send information (and pictures) to [chapternews@agohq.org](mailto:chapternews@agohq.org). We have many exciting events taking place in our region so let's share them. This is also a great section to get ideas for your own chapter events as you plan your program year. And don't forget to post your chapter events on the Region VI Facebook page.

|| Do you have members who are considering taking one of the certification exams? If anyone is taking the upper level exams (FAGO, AAGO, or ChM) the exam sites are listed on the national website. We certainly need more folks who are certified in these upper levels in order to have more exam sites in the North Central Region. In the last couple of years we've lost to death some of the members who held these certificates and that means fewer exam sites now, too. Encourage members to consider taking these exams. Again, information is on the national website or be in touch with our regional education coordinator, Jeremy Chesman.

|| As your regional councillor, I hope to have the opportunity to visit more North Central chapters during the next couple of years. If I am not already on your mailing list for your chapter newsletter or your email list, please include me. And don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

|| Marilyn Schempp

|| Councillor for the North Central Region

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## Some Results from the AGO Online Survey

In October 2014, the AGO Marketing Committee invited everyone to participate in an online survey developed by the Committee. More than 3,300 members, former members, and non-members responded. The information learned will guide the Committee in efforts to improve the AGO membership experience.

Some interesting preliminary findings were:

- ★ 80% of current members were paid for playing the organ in a religious institution during the last year
- ★ 40% of current members report earning the highest percentage of their income in fields other than music, even if they also play in a church or synagogue
- ★ 22% of former members report that their work at religious institutions generates the largest percentage of their income
- ★ 93% of retired organists enjoy attending organ recitals

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## New Membership Dues Rates for 2015-2016

The AGO National Council has established new dues rates for all dues categories. The new rates will appear on the April 1, 2015 renewal notices that AGO Headquarters will send to current chapter members renewing for the 2015-2016 membership year. These rates are \$100 for Regular members, \$75 for Special members, \$40 for Student members, and \$75 for Partners. The new rates reflect a \$3 increase in each membership category, with \$2 being retained by each chapter and \$1 allocated to National Headquarters.

The new dues rates will take effect April 1 for those who join the Guild for the first time either as Chapter members or as Independent members, or who reinstate as either Chapter members or Independent members after their memberships have lapsed. Please note that new members and those who wish to reinstate their lapsed memberships can join now through March 30 at the current dues rates before they increase on April 1.

Separately, the National Council has authorized the National Headquarters to initiate a "rolling membership year" for those who are joining a chapter for the first time or reinstating after their membership has lapsed.

This means that a member's expiration date will be one year from the date on which the member joined; i.e., on the anniversary of the join date. Under this plan, all current chapter members will retain their July 1-June 30 membership year as long as they renew by September 1. For new and reinstating members, however, the membership year will commence on the first of the month in which the member joins the Guild. Independent members, like TAO subscribers, have always followed a rolling membership year and will continue to do so.

Effective retroactively to November 1, 2014, AGO National Headquarters implemented the anniversary date membership for all new members and those who reinstated their memberships since that date. These individuals will not have to wait until July 1, 2015 to begin to receive a full year of membership benefits. Instead, since November 1, their membership year began in the month in which they joined or reinstated.

Our newest membership benefits include full online access to each issue of TAO, the ability to join online throughout the year and update one's membership profile at any time, and, exclusively for first-time members, access to a no-cost life insurance policy for two years with a \$40,000 benefit. All Guild members have the ability to review job listings on the AGO's job board, the world's most complete listing of positions

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## New Membership Dues Rates for 2015-2016 (continued from page 5)

available; eligibility for high-quality insurance plans for health, car, home, and professional liability at competitive rates; discounts on AGO convention fees and educational resources; discounts on certification examination fees; access to Chapter events such as recitals, workshops, meetings, and seminars (in some cases for chapter members only), and voting privileges in officer elections. One important benefit cannot be overstated, and a prominent, long-time Guild member said it well: "I am an organist; the AGO is my professional organization."

If you have any questions, please contact:

Leah Semiken, Manager of Membership and Chapter Relations at [Leah.Semiken@agohq.org](mailto:Leah.Semiken@agohq.org)

Or James E. Thomashower, Executive Director at [jet@agohq.org](mailto:jet@agohq.org).

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## Composer's Corner—Ralph Vaughan Williams

Ralph Vaughan Williams is arguably the greatest composer Britain has seen since the days of Henry Purcell. In a long and extensive career, he composed music notable for its power, nobility and expressiveness, representing, perhaps, the essence of 'Englishness'.

Vaughan Williams was born in The Vicarage on October 12, 1872 in Cotswold village of Down Ampney. Music was an important part of his family. His Aunt Sophy gave Ralph his early music lessons. He wrote his first piano piece, called "The Robin's Nest", when he was 6. He played duets with his brother Hervey and sister Meggie. His mother would read aloud to the children—adventure stories as well as classics. His admiration for Shakespeare began then.

At the age of 14 he became a pupil at Charterhouse School where he organized concerts and felt he had the makings of a fine viola player. His family disagreed, believing the organ was the right instrument for him. During the 1880s he was passionate about architecture. He followed his brother to prep school at Rollingdean near Brighton in 1883. There he was introduced to the music of J.S.Bach and became quite good at playing the violin.

In 1890 Vaughan Williams left Charterhouse and entered the Royal College of Music where he became a pupil of Sir Hubert Parry. Parry widened Ralph's musical knowledge but also provided him with a sense of the nobility and greatness of the English choral tradition. In 1892 he went on to Trinity College, Cambridge where he studied with Charles Wood. There he was introduced to a wide circle of friends. He went on to study with Max Bruch in Berlin and Maurice Ravel in Paris.

At the turn of the century he was among the very first to travel into the countryside to collect folksongs and carols from singers, notating them for future generations to enjoy. As musical editor of *The English Hymnal* he composed several hymns that are now worldwide favorites (*For All the Saints, Come Down O Love Divine*). Later he also helped to edit *The Oxford Book of Carols*, with similar success. Before the war he had met and then sustained a long and deep friendship with the composer Gustav Holst. Vaughan Williams volunteered to serve in the Field Ambulance Service in Flanders for the 1914-1916 war, during which he was deeply affected by the carnage and the loss of close friends such as the composer George Butterworth.

For many years Vaughan Williams conducted and led the Leith Hill Music Festival, and also became professor of composition at the RCM in London. He died on August 25, 1958; his ashes are interred in Westminster Abbey, near Purcell.

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## North Central Regional Convention June 22-24, 2015

The American Guild of Organists is excited to call Saint Louis, Missouri home for the 2015 North Central Regional Convention. If you have not received your registration brochure in the mail, here are some of the highlights:

Performances will be presented by Thomas Murray, John Behnke, Anna Myeong, Christopher Marks, Barbara Raedeke, Daryl Robinson, Mark Gifford, The Gateway Ringers, St. Louis Children's Choir, Choir of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Workshops offered will be: *Chant in Latin and English*/Horst Buchholz, *Jazz in Worship*/Steve Schenkel, *What Does the AGO Offer You?*/Marilyn Schempp, *Music Reading Session*/Clifford Hill, *The Music of Herbert Howells*/Jeffrey Carter, *Personal Finance for Church Musicians*/Barbara Adler, *Spirituals*/Duane Martin Foster, *Beginning Improvisation*/Don Rotermund, *Chapter/AGO*/James Thomashower, *Music of Leo Sowerby*/Pat Partridge, *Breathe from the Diaphragm and Other Myths Debunked*/Sheila Dugan, *Historical and Contemporary Women Organ Composers*/Barbara Harbach, *Morningstar Organ Repertoire*/Kelly Dobbs Mickus.

Venues will include Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis (Kilgen/Moller/Wicks 4 manuals, 118 ranks), Christ Church Cathedral (Aeolian-Skinner 4 manuals, 70 ranks), First Presbyterian Church Kirkwood (Casabant 3 manuals, 76 ranks), Fox Theatre (Wurlitzer 4 manuals, 36 ranks), Hope United Church of Christ (Harrison and Harrison 2 manuals, 28 ranks), Kirkwood Baptist Church (Quimby 3 manuals, 43 ranks), St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Mander 3 manuals, 53 ranks), Third Baptist Church (Kilgen/Moller/Reuter 4 manuals, 72 ranks).

Registration fees vary according to sign up dates and membership categories. Daily registration rates are also available. Transportation is included in the listed registration fees.

For complete schedule and information, visit the website [WWW.AGO2015.ORG](http://WWW.AGO2015.ORG). You can register for the convention and pay signup fees on the website or mail a check payable to "AGO 2015 Regional Convention" to: AGO 2015 Regional Convention, Post Office Box 140159, St. Louis, MO 63114-0159.



### **Upcoming Events**

***Sunday, March 15, 2015, 2:00 PM***

“Basically British” Program presented by RRV-  
AGO members  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

***Sunday, April 19, 2015, 4:00 PM***

Dr. Joel Bacon Organ Concert  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

***Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 6:00 PM***

RRVAGO Potluck and Music Exchange  
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

### **Contact Information**

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