



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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Organist: Defined

Organist: a musician who plays any type of organ.

Classical and Church Organists: The majority of organists, amateur and professional, are principally involved in church music. The pipe organ still plays a large part in the leading of traditional Christian worship is still a strong one, with roles including the accompaniment of hymns, choral anthems and other parts of the worship. The degree to which the organ is involved varies depending on the church and denomination. It also may depend on the standard of the organist. Many provincial organists are nothing more than pianists called on to lead worship, whereas some churches are fortunate to have trained organists capable of more elaborate "voluntaries" (the solo music before, during and after the service) and improvisation. In the twentieth-century, many pipe organs were replaced by pipe-

less electronic and digital organ, often as a low-cost alternative to rebuilding older pipe organs.

In the English cathedral tradition the master of music is generally titled "Organist", although their function is mainly in the training and direction of music rather than actual playing; there will generally be one or more assistant or sub-organists who play most services and some recitals. Sometimes the organist will be assisted by an organ scholar. The post of organist at most of the great cathedrals includes recital work and choral training. Musicians such as Malcolm Archer, John Scott and Barry Rose are accomplished organists as well as choral directors. Another function of an organist is often as teacher to future players.

Since the strengths and weaknesses of the organ are difficult to understand without a good deal of playing experience, most mu-

sic composed for organ has been written by organists. Since the majority of pre-twentieth-century organs were installed in churches, classical organ literature was almost exclusively written for liturgical use.

Many composers, therefore, are equally known for their performance talents, some historical examples being Johann Sebastian Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude and Franz Liszt. In Europe, the historical importance of churches as employers of musicians meant that many composers not now remembered for their association with the organ nevertheless were engaged as professional organists, for example, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Max Reger and Edward Elgar.

Credit: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>)

Message From the Dean

Friends,

I must say a big "Thank You" to everyone who contributed to this season's program line-up. The program committee is still working to complete the schedule for next year, so expect to see the 2007-2008 programs in August.



Look for an article about the RRV AGO in the Lake Agassiz Arts Council's "Arts Forum" in July. Michael Olson and I were both interviewed for the piece, written by Steven Wilson.

The last event of this season is our spring potluck, a chance for us to get together with no particular agenda. This year, the potluck will be held at my house, 700 62nd Ave N, Moorhead, MN, just north of Wall Street. Mapquest or Google Maps are both

good sources for directions. You will enter Brentwood Acres from the east, and continue west on 62nd Ave until it ends. There is an address sign at the end of my driveway, but it is still 1/4 mile to my house from there and it is hard to see my house in the trees even at this time of year, so follow the driveway back to the tudor house in the woods. Watch for deer, geese, and ducks. You will be approaching from the back of the house, so follow the driveway around to the front where there is a parking area. Bring whatever food you would like to share, but more importantly, bring yourselves and family members! Let's celebrate another RRV AGO season!

~Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

Organist Guild Lunch Club

- ~First Friday of the month at Noon
- ~Fargo downtown Fryin' Pan Restaurant
- ~Everyone is welcome!

Chapter Officers

- Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben
- Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
- Secretary: Ruth Discher
- Treasurer: Lance Johnson

Board Members at Large

- 2007: Brad Steen
- 2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon
- 2009: Ruth Strawn, Alpha Roeszler

Board Meeting Notes

April 19, 2007: The meeting of the RRV AGO was called to order at the Boulger Funeral Home by Dean Victoria Wms Sieben.

Those present were: Ruth Discher, Lance Johnson, Victoria Sieben, Ruth Strawn, Robyn Vinje.

Lance moved to approve the Minutes from the March 15, 2007 Board meeting as printed in the April Pipeline. Robyn seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved as written.

Lance presented the Treasurer's report: Balance on deposit = \$2,209.45. \$16.05 interest was earned on the money market account. We have been granted \$1870.00 from the Lakes Region Arts Council of which 80% (\$1495) has been received. The remaining 20% will be distributed later. We will also be receiving \$1,000 from the FM Area Foundation and hope to be hearing from the Alex Stearn Family Foundation in July. Lance requested that we ask for donations from the AGO membership, as has been done in previous years, to help defray the cost of the Paul Jacobs concert in September. Lance also reported that the job description and guidelines for the position of RRV AGO Treasurer are nearing completion. Robyn moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented and Ruth Strawn seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Recorded Music Committee

Robyn reported that the committee is still being formulated and discussions will begin soon.

Program Committee

Members who agreed to serve on the committee for the 2007-2008 season are: Solveig Bartz, Lance Johnson, Sue Knorr, Gerald Parker, Vicky Wms Sieben and Mavis Tjon. Some suggestions have been received from committee members and RRV AGO members at large: continue Christmas Sing-A-Long with perhaps some visual enhancements (photography), another music exchange, an organ crawl in Fergus Falls, organ/instrumental program, organ/symphony program, an "organ spectacular" promoting area organs, "performing" concerts by area organists similar to the organ/piano duet concert.

Lance offered Dilworth Lutheran as a possible location for the 2007 Christmas Sing-A-Long.

Board Election

Ballots have been mailed out. Ballots will be accumulated and all will be opened and counted at one time. New officers will be introduced and installed at the May 6 membership potluck to be held at the home of Dean Vicky Sieben.

Old Business

1. Paul Jacob's Recital - September 16, 2007; \$3250 concert, \$500 master class. Area teachers will be contacted about interest in submitting student names for participation in the Master Class.

2. 2006-2007 Programs - Vicky will be sending out invitations and maps for the membership Potluck Dinner to be held on Sunday, May 6 at 4 PM.

3. List of Churches/Contacts - This list will be used for the membership drive - Membership applications will be included with a brochure prepared by the National AGO as well as a flyer with a captioned photographic summary of our 2006-2007 season events. This information will be mailed to all prospective participants.

4. Region VI AGO Convention June 18-21 in Lincoln, Nebraska

New Business

1. Watch for the LAAC *Arts Forum* article coming out in July which features an extended interview with Michael Olson and Vicky Sieben written by Steve Wilson.

2. The Board will be sending a Thank You to all chairpersons and publicity organizers for their contributions to the success of the programs this season.

3. Membership Dues - Robyn moved that despite a \$2.00 increase in National Dues, our local chapter will keep the membership dues at the same rate as they were for this past year. The motion was seconded by Lance and carried by the Board.

4. Correspondence was received from the Grand Forks AGO Chapter inviting the RRV Chapter to participate in supporting a concert in 2008 in Grand Forks by recitalist Christopher Anderson. The Board will look into this more closely at a later date.

5. The next RRV AGO Board meeting date has been changed to the second Thursday in May and will be held at the Boulger Funeral Home on **May 10, at 4 PM.**

Lance moved to adjourn the meeting. Vicky seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Discher, Secretary

We'll Be Bach (in August)!

This is the last newsletter for two months. Enjoy June and July and we'll be back before you know it! Please get your articles in by July 20 for the August issue.

Pipeline Profile

Carolyn Hensrud, RRV-AGO Member



Carolyn Hensrud found the organ bench her first year at Concordia by default. She had been accepted as a piano major, but her teacher took an unannounced sabbatical. Ruth Berge was her advisor, and asked if she'd ever played a pipe organ before.

Three hours later, she was hooked, and with Ruth's kind encouragement,

she grew to love the organ and all it could do.

After playing for Mildred Andrews at the University of Oklahoma in a summer workshop, she was accepted into the graduate program in organ and received her Master's degree. Her first job was as a marketing assistant with Augsburg Publishing House in Minneapolis, where she became reacquainted with Grant and they married two years later. A move to Fargo – and eventually four wonderful children were born. Carolyn subbed in the area, served as Dean of the RRVC, was the North Dakota State Chair, and served as organist at Messiah Lutheran.

Carolyn is especially thankful for the three years of hard work this chapter put into the planning and implementation of our highly successful 2001 Region VI Convention. Fellow Steering Committee members were: Mark Ring, AGO/Quimby Competition for Young Organists; Lance Johnson, Budget; Michael Olson, Exhibits, Program Book

Ads; Mary Tangen, Grants/Budget & Hospitality/ Hotel; Norman Roos, Program Committee; Dawn Papenfuss, Registrar; Gerald Parker, Transportation; Keith Melberg, Treasurer; and Alan Ball, Webmaster. Carolyn did the Program Book and Publicity. It was particularly gratifying to hear Samuel Metzger at First Presbyterian recently – his convention recital at Gethsemane on their new Sipe received a standing ovation.

After serving as convention coordinator, Carolyn was asked to join the national AGO Committee on Regional Conventions – a six-year appointment. It has been a truly rewarding experience to work with all nine regions of the AGO, the very helpful national office staff, and her fellow committee members.

These past six years, CORC focused on revising the Guidelines for Regional Conventions, an arduous task that often included things our respective conventions had done. Annual visits to New York have been an added bonus, since her oldest son, Matthew, lives there. Four Qdoba Mexican Grill restaurants have taught her to respect knives and tomato choppers so that she can still sub and accompany now and then! Aren't we fortunate to have music in our lives to make our days complete?

2007 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society

Registration for the 2007 OHS National Convention in Central Indiana, July 11-17, is now available online. Take advantage of early registration rates.

Use the easy, secure online form to register now! Full information and registration forms are available at:

www.organsociety.org/2007/registration/registration.html

NOTE: The "Pipeline Profile" has been created so members can get to know more about each other. We encourage everyone to write their own profile and send it along with a picture of yourself (*.jpg* or *.bmp* format) to us at rrvago@hotmail.com. We may need to edit content if necessary and will feature a member in each edition (space permitting). We look forward to meeting each of you!

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Upcoming Events

September 17, 2006, 4:00 PM

Membership Meeting and Music Exchange
Messiah Lutheran, Fargo

October 15, 2006, 4:00 PM

Funeral Music Program
St. John Lutheran, Fargo

December 3, 2006, 7:00 PM

Christmas Hymn Sing
Peace Lutheran, Fargo

February 11, 2007, 4:00 PM

Wedding Music Program
Grace United Methodist, Moorhead

March 25, 2007, 4:00 PM

Organ/Piano Duet Program
First Presbyterian, Fargo

May 6, 2007, 4:00 PM

Membership Potluck
Vicky Wms Sieben Home, Moorhead



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