



PIPELINE

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2001

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF THE PIPE ORGAN

By Lance E. Johnson, Pres.
Johnson Organ Company, Inc.
Fargo, ND

Reprint of a workshop presented at the
Region VI Convention held in Fargo, ND
June 18-21, 2001

Purpose of Lecture: to help church organists who play pipe organs to better understand their instrument with respect to special service needs as well as routine annual maintenance.

Forward: Many organists are at a loss to know what to do when the organ acts up except to call the service company. Too many times the organists cannot adequately describe the problem which results in wasted time for the organ man and in the end, results in a higher service bill than necessary. In addition, organ tuners are asked to do tunings or touch ups at inappropriate times and again more money is spent by the church than necessary. Organists need to learn the proper nomenclature for organ related problems.

1. SPECIAL PROBLEMS

A. CIPHER: (don't say "sticking key") Note will not shut off.

1. Does cipher go away after stop is cancelled?
2. Does turning off organ and back on again get rid of it?
3. Time to pull pipe. (Can it wait until organ is serviced?)
 - a) Identify which stop has the cipher
 - b) Open Pipe: Run hand near, **but do not touch**, top of pipe to hear pitch change.
 - c) Closed pipe; Lift out pipes one by one until pipe stops.
 - d) Note of high pitch, blow in direction of cipher, when pitch changes, locate pipe and tip out.
 - e) Large bass pipe, stuff rag in mouth .

B. STICKING KEY (Key will not pop back out)

1. Call organ tuner: (cause could be swelling or object caught between keys, paper clip, etc.)

(continued elsewhere in this issue)



Upcoming Events

November 17, 2001

Organ crawl with Northern Valley AGO
10 a.m. start at Gethsemane
See note elsewhere

November 25, 2001

A Christ The King Sunday Hymn Festival
Peace Lutheran Church
Fargo, ND
6:30 p.m.

December 2, 2001

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG
Kindred Lutheran
(the church in town)
391 Spruce St., Kindred, ND
3:00 p.m.

January 13, 2002

CHORAL TECHNIQUES
Presented by Paul Nesheim
Concordia College
South Choral Room
Moorhead, MN
4:00 p.m.

REMINDER

Don't forget to join us at Kindred Lutheran Church, (it is the only steeple in Kindred) on Sunday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. for the Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long. Cookies and beverage will be served in the fellowship room following the program. Bring your children with you!

There is still room if anyone would like to perform or accompany for the Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long. Call Cheryl Rostad, 428-9897. We have a Johnson rebuilt Moller pipe organ and a 7' Baldwin grand piano. Like to sing? We could use you for a solo also. This is a fun program-please consider it.

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C. DEAD NOTE (Note will not sound)

1. Can you play around it?
2. Can you use other manuals?
3. Call organ tuner and advise as to importance of note. Does it mean a special service call? How much will it cost?

D. BADLY OUT OF TUNE PIPE

1. Can it be cut from registration?
2. Avoid playing note and calling attention to it.
3. Inform organ tuner. Identify which stop and which note. (Middle C is third octave C)
4. REEDS out of tune. Examples: Trumpet, Oboe, Tuba, Clarinet and Krummhorn.
 - a) Most reeds either sharp or flat: Temperature of church likely much different than when organ was tuned. If reeds are sharp from rest of organ, church is cold. If they are flat, church is too hot. Don't waste church's money on tuning reeds during hot season or if furnace is off.
 - b) One of two notes badly off. Likely pipe was bumped or has dirt particle lodged in reed tongue. Best left to when organ is tuned. (Don't blame tuner if pipe slips out shortly after he leaves!)

E. ORGAN WON'T START

1. Call organ company. They may advise you to have janitor check for blown breaker or fuse. If he cannot find problem, call an electrician who in turn can consult with organ company. (Don't ask for a special service call from organ company unless you are prepared to get a gigantic bill for five minutes of work that in 99% of cases can or must be remedied by your local electrician.

CONTINUED IN NEXT PIPELINE

MEXICAN BEANS AND RICE

(the much-sought-after Michael Olson recipe!)

One 15-oz. Can black beans, drained and rinsed
One 10-oz. Package frozen whole kernel corn
One cup raw white rice
One 16-oz. Jar thick and chunky mild salsa
1 1/2 cups V-8 juice (or use 3/4 cup canned diced
Tomatoes with green chilies and 3/4 cup water)
1/4 tsp. Oregano
1/4 tsp. Cumin

Heat oven 375 degrees. Combine all ingredients, stir to mix and bake for about 1 hour, or until rice is tender, and the casserole has started to thicken.

Serve with tortillas, sour cream and/or shredded cheese.

This is supposed to be enough for four servings. The person who gave me the recipe said "I think it serves a LOT more than four" and she is absolutely correct!

This recipe was given to Michael Olson by a member of his handbell choir at First Lutheran. It is very easy to make. It tastes great and the AGO board enjoyed it, so it must be good!

DEAN CHERYL SPEAKS

Call me a dreamer or naïve or unrealistic, but I really thought we'd see at least ONE member of this chapter at the Halloween Howl program other than those who volunteered to participate on October 28. Now I realize that everyone is "busy" - I hear it ever-time I call to ask for help with the PTA, or church, or school. But if EVERYONE contributed just a little bit, NO ONE would have to do it ALL! If I sound a little perturbed, forgive me; I am. An organization cannot continue without enthusiastic support from its members. As I write this only 31 memberships have come in. Are we to conclude that only a few wish to be part of this guild anymore? If this is correct I would really appreciate knowing why. You have my phone number as well as e-mail address and I have asked you to contact me with concerns, suggestions or comments. There are several people on the board that you could also contact with your concerns and comments.

This chapter was founded in 1945. It is a good, useful and I believe, necessary contribution to this area. I find it very upsetting that we can fill stadiums and soccer fields and movie theatres, yet the FREE music programs go unattended. Why not take a group of children to these programs? Why do we not see the need to introduce them to, and then continue to educate them and open avenues to them when it comes to music—and in our case organ and sacred music? We cannot foster an appreciation of anything if we are not willing to take the time and expend the effort to do just that.

We had so many good comments from the residents and staff at Eventide after the Halloween program. We brought something to these people that they would not otherwise get to enjoy. I am proud to belong to an organization of professionals who are willing to share their talents with others. But if cannot be just a few—we need everybody! If I made you mad—call me. If you don't appreciate being lectured to, call me. If I sparked some interest—call me. Don't let this organization fall by the wayside. Too many people have worked too hard over the past 56 years to let that happen. Please volunteer to share your time, talent and ideas with us. Please give it some thought. Cheryl Rostad, 428-9897 or e-mail, cmrostad@aol.com

Hymn Festival to be held Nov. 25, 2001

John D. Jahr of St. Anthony, MN will present a Christ The King Sunday Hymn Festival at Peace Lutheran in Fargo on Sunday, November 25, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored as part of a year long celebration of the congregation's 60th Anniversary. The Festival Choir of Peace Lutheran and other ensembles will participate. If you haven't attended an event in Peace Lutheran's newly remodeled sanctuary, or heard the recently upgraded organ, this is an excellent opportunity.

John served as organist and music director at Peace Lutheran for eleven years. He has a BA in Music from Concordia College-Moorhead and a Master of Sacred Music from Luther Seminary, St. Paul. John presently serves as Minister of Music at First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights, MN, where he is organist, directs five ensembles, oversees a graded choir school, and administers the "Music at First" concert series. He is a dual member of the Red River Valley Chapter.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Faith United Methodist Church, 909 19th Ave. N. in Fargo, 232-6844 or e-mail fumc@att.net. Organist needed to play for all Sunday services, for seasonal mid-week services, weddings and funerals as schedule permits. Want expertise in organ and accompanying, including sight reading, knowledge of liturgical music. Please contact church for more details.

Please send all PIPELINE news to:

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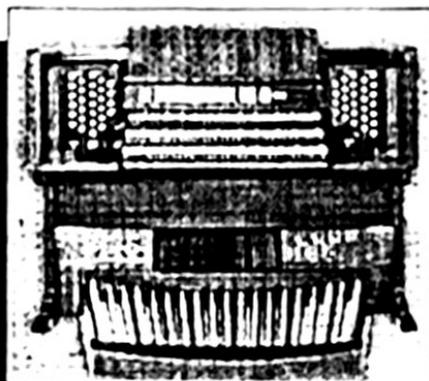
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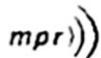
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A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Our AGO friends to the north are having an organ crawl next Saturday, November 17 in the Fargo Area and we are invited. They will start at Gethsemane at 10 a.m. and thence proceed to the Fargo Theater with lunch scheduled at Juano's at 12:30. Please stop by and greet these folks and perhaps have a chance to take a closer look at a few instruments in the area. (*ed. Hope this gets delivered by next Friday!*)

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