



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

PIPELINE

VOL. 11 NO. 1

RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 1994

Celebrating the founding of the Chapter in September of 1945

S U N D A Y S E P T E M B E R 1 8 T H

1 9 9 4 K I C K O F F ! ! !

- 4 : 0 0 P . M . -

"TAKING THE MYSTERY OUT OF MODERN INSTRUMENTS"

Clinician: Peggy Dahl Bartunek

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
1515 Western Avenue, Grafton, North Dakota

- Using a digital keyboard:
 - 1) by itself; 2) with the organ
- Sequencing
- Using an organ with MIDI capability: how to incorporate orchestral and contemporary sounds with a traditional organ
- How to do contemporary music from the organ
- How to involve youth in liturgical services

Peggy speaks on this subject at national conferences, and is a joy to learn from!

- 5 : 1 5 P . M . -

"MEET THE NORDLIE TRACKER ORGAN"

Grafton Lutheran Church
143 West 5th Street, Grafton, North Dakota

We will participate in a Matins Service, hear a choir anthem accompanied by the organ, and sing hymns to show the versatility of the organ.
(Bring your shoes and music to play the organ during and after supper.)

- 6 : 0 0 P . M . -

CATERED SUPPER FROM GRANNY'S RESTAURANT
\$5.00/person Please RSVP for the supper to:
Dawn Papenfuss, Moorhead, 218-233-4814
Ruth Stenson, Grafton, 701-352-2641

** Moorhead and surrounding folks! If you are interested in carpooling, please meet on the south side of the Concordia Music Building at 1:30 P.M. on September 18th (6th Street and 12th Avenue South). Don't be late!!!

DON'T MISS THIS!! SEE YOU ALL THERE!!

Enclosed in this newsletter is an insert outlining our programs for the year. It is hoped you will remove it and post it in an obvious place for your easy reference. Will you please all be ambassadors or publicity agents on behalf of our chapter, and feed these program announcements into your (monthly) church newsletter? Sketchy facts will do. Think two months in advance. Follow up with a timely blip in the Sunday bulletin - this would certainly help our publicity efforts. We can't expect the public to recognize who we are and what we do if we don't get the information out to them. Let your people know your involvement.

Similarly, submit to the Pipeline events occurring at your church that would be of interest to us.

This is the time of year when many calendars are being put together and I have been busy submitting our programs for inclusion. Not all of them (our programs) meet individual criteria, but we will get some degree of coverage in most.

As a member of the Lake Agassiz Arts Council, we have again been invited to be present at the Moorhead New Educators Reception, Wednesday, September 21st, at the Heritage Hjemkomst Center. This is an opportunity for all the local arts organizations to make themselves known to new teachers and faculty of Moorhead private, public, and university schools. Along with the Johnson table-top organ, we will have AGO brochures, copies of our 94-95 programs, copies of TAO, and two free passes to the Fargo/Moorhead Community Messiah Sing-Along.

As of August 31st, 42 memberships had been received. I am heartened by this response! At the same time, in a perfect world, all would-be members would be on board by now. My heartfelt thanks to John, Carolyn, and Brad who process all this information in very short order and get our yearbook into our hands within a month's time. Regarding membership, last year the Red River Valley Chapter had 73 members; there were 356 chapters nationally, with a total of 19,792 voting members, and 1,800 more non-voting.

Looking ahead, the success of a large undertaking like the Fargo/Moorhead Community Messiah Sing-Along depends largely on our involvement and the verve with which we spread the enthusiasm and the commitment. We must plan ahead, and encourage and inform our church choirs, fellow musicians, friends, neighbors, and students to become involved, even if only to attend. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear and be a part of a community effort--a community which has become used to having as residents some of the Midwest's finest musical professionals--a community which, over the years, has learned to expect the highest artistic offerings.

But first, we kick off our year in Grafton. Hopefully we will have a lovely, late summer day. We'll make it an even better event by having a great turnout, so, "Y'all Come!" Check the specific details on the first page of this issue, bunch up in carloads, and let's have a good time.

Marlys Herring

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BOARD MINUTES, RRV CHAPTER, AGO, 8/5/94

The executive board of the Red River Valley Chapter-AGO met at Gethsemane Cathedral, Fargo, August 5, 1994 at 7:00 PM, in the Fireside Room. Members present: Marlys Herring, Jay Hershberger, John Jahr, Dawn Papenfuss, Robert Hachmeister, Carolyn Hensrud, David Childs, Bradley Steen, and Craig Proehl.

Meeting was called to order by Dean Marlys Herring, who gave all assembled a warm welcome, and invited input as the board launched into a new year. It was announced that Mary Tangen will serve as secretary, and Robert Hachmeister as Pipeline editor. The Secretary's Report from the May board meeting was read and approved (see August Pipeline). The Treasurer's Report was presented by outgoing treasurer Craig Proehl (the Financial Report for 1993-94 was in the August Pipeline). Old business: it was decided that Norm Hansen's request to repeat his survey from last year need not be done; the dean indicated that much of the material in her possession would be put in the Chapter Archive housed at Moorhead State University. New business: discussion of the importance of having a 1995-96 budget committee; Jay Hershberger was asked by the dean to chair that committee, and that John Jahr serve on same; so moved by dean Marlys, seconded by David Childs; passed. Rod Rothlisberger has been appointed Minnesota District Convenor (Aug. Pipeline).

Marlys announced some people needs of the Chapter: since it is important for the Chapter to save copies of newsletters, programs, and other materials that document the Chapter's history, an Archivist is needed; Professional Concerns and Hospitality need people.

Jay announced that he is trying to organize an organ crawl for the people of Gethsemane Cathedral. This would be laity education to raise awareness in people's minds about moving forward with the new pipe organ project. He hoped the Chapter could be involved in some way.

Dawn gave an overview of the exciting program year, planned with events of wide interest that would appeal to many (August Pipeline and "insert" in this issue). The importance of publicity was again emphasized, as was searching out various grants that are available. David moved, Jay seconded, that the Chapter split the cost of the Messiah Sing-Along with First Presbyterian Church; passed. Jay moved, Marlys seconded, that the Chapter give Rene Clausen a \$400.00 honorarium for facilitating the choral reading session in January; passed. Marlys moved, John seconded, that the Program Committee proceed; passed.

There was discussion of a proposal to change the format of our Chapter Yearbook for 1995-96. Next year will be our Chapter's fiftieth anniversary year, and the Yearbook could include more information, e.g., by-laws, etc. There was also discussion that our Chapter seriously consider the possibility of hosting the Regional Convention in 2001!

Marlys moved, Jay seconded, that we adjourn; passed.

Submitted by Bradley Steen, Acting Secretary

* * * * *

DATES OF NOTE

Monday, September 12th, Concordia Voice Faculty Recital, at 8:00 PM, in Hvidsten Hall, Concordia, Moorhead.

Sunday, September 18th, Grafton "Kickoff" Program

Monday, September 19th, Fargo/Moorhead Area Music Club will have "A Celebration of a Century of Music" Tea, at 1:00 PM, at First United Methodist Church, Fargo. Guests are welcome.

Friday, September 23rd, Jay Hershberger, piano, and Eugenia Slezak, cello, 8:00 PM, Hvidsten Hall, Concordia, Moorhead. Free and open to the public.

Monday, October 10th, 7:30 PM, Fellowship Room of Bethesda Lutheran, Moorhead --- Professional Concerns



American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 2223 Fargo, ND 58108

PROGRAMS for 94-95

- Sept. 18 Taking the Mystery Out of Modern Instruments**
We will visit and hear the organs at
Grafton Lutheran Church and St. John the Evangelist Church.
Catered supper - \$5.00.
4:00 P.M. - Grafton, N.D.
- Oct. 10 A Program on Professional Concerns**
7:30 P.M. - Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN
- Nov. 20 Messiah Sing-Along**
The well-known arias sung by local soloists
and the familiar and loved choruses sung by
a volunteer choir made up of all who wish.
6:00 - rehearsal, 7:00 - performance
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND
- Jan. 14 Choral Reading Session With René Clausen**
1-4:30 - Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND
- Feb. 12 Albert Schweitzer on Bach's Music**
A class in conjunction with the F/M Communiversity
1:30-3:30 - Concordia College Centrum
- Mar. 25 The Practical Organist**
Tried, tested, and accessible music for the church organist
with minimal preparation time, played by chapter members.
2-4 - Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, Fargo, ND
- April 30 AGO Hymn Festival**
A non-denominational celebration through song and ceremony
7:00 - Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN
- May 7 Crookston Organ Spectacular**
Music on the organs at Trinity Lutheran Church
and the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception
4:00 - Crookston, MN

All programs are free and open to the public. The Messiah tickets are \$4.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students; charge for Communiversity class and music at the Clausen reading session, TBA; Hymn Festival will have a free-will offering. 233-9744

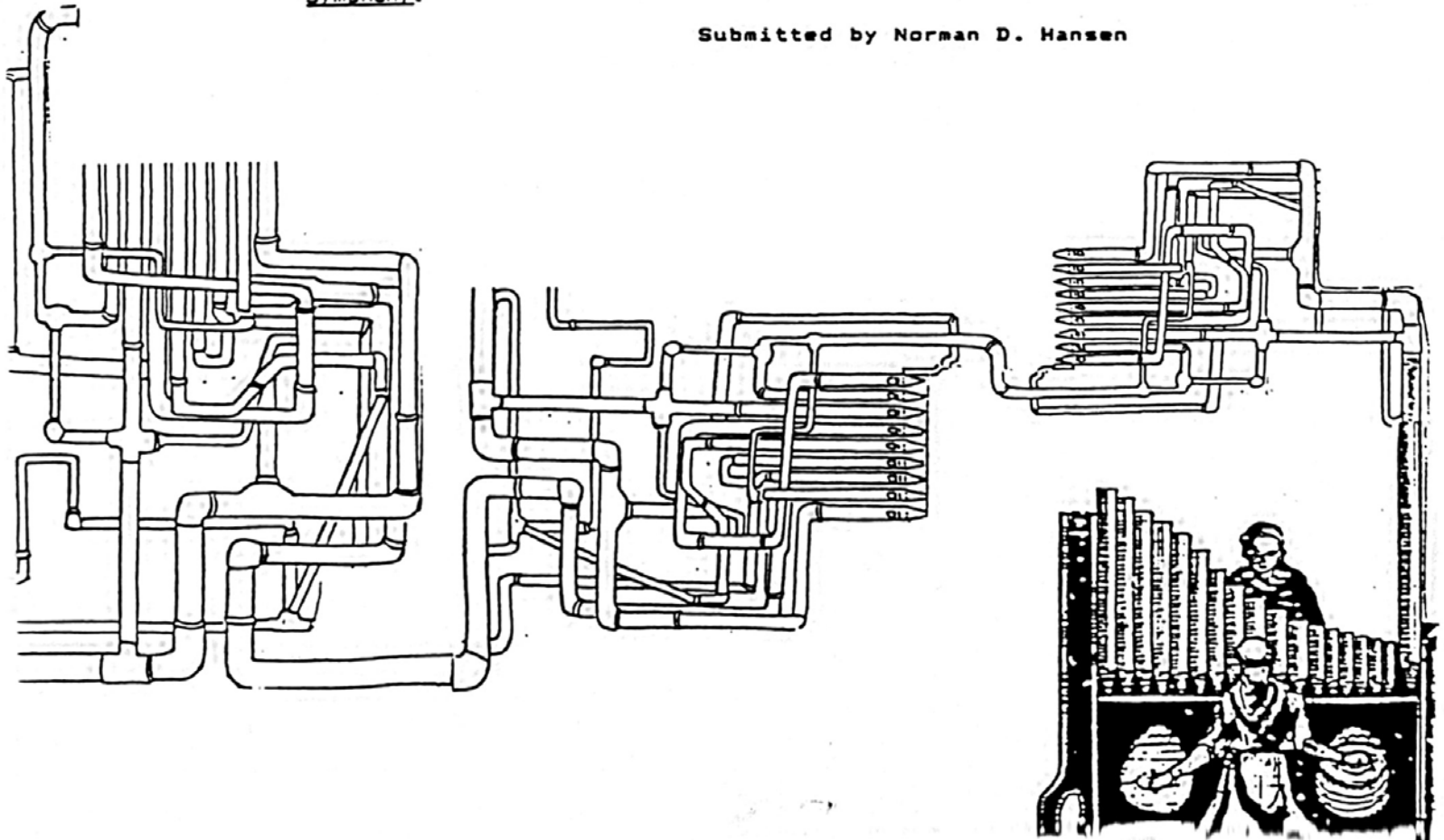
The following appeared in the Newsletter of an AGO Chapter in Utah at an earlier date:

When the Chairman of the Board of Directors of a local symphony orchestra (who was also President of the largest corporation in the city) found he could not attend the next symphony concert, he gave his ticket to one of his employees (who happened to be a management consultant). Monday morning following the concert, the employee was asked if he had enjoyed the concert. Instead of the polite rejoinder expected, the Chairman was handed a memorandum which went something like this:

The Undersigned submits the following comments and recommendations relative to the live performance of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, as observed under actual working conditions:

1. For considerable periods, the four oboe players had nothing to do. One player could perform all the work if it were spread more evenly over the entire piece, thus eliminating peaks and valleys of activity.
2. All 12 violins were playing identical notes with identical motions. This duplication of effort is unnecessary. The staff of this section should be drastically reduced. If a larger volume of sound is required, it could be obtained through electronic amplification which has recently attained high levels of fidelity.
3. Much expertise was required in playing sixteenth notes or semiquavers. This seems an excessive refinement beyond the ability of most listeners to appreciate. It is recommended that all notes be rounded to the nearest 8th. If this were done, the orchestra could use lower grade operators with no loss of quality.
4. No useful purpose would appear to be served by having the horns repeat passages that had already been handled by the strings. If this and all other redundant passages were eliminated, the elapsed playing time could be reduced by 35 percent with commensurate savings in salaries and overhead expenses.
5. In summary, if the first three movements had been written more concisely, Schubert probably would have had time to finish the Symphony.

Submitted by Norman D. Hansen



their level of skill or background. No advance preparation is necessary.

Male	1	CHURCH	JOB CATEGORY	
Female	5	Denomination		
Single	2		Organist only	5
Married	4	Lutheran	5	Director only
Age	41-63	Presbyterian	1	Organist/Director

DUTIES

# of Services		# of Rehearsals		Special Services	
1	3	1	3	13	1
2	2	2	1	12	1
3	1	3	-	8	1
				6	3

SALARIES/FEES

Annual			Thanksgiving	6
up to \$1200	1		Advent	1
up to \$1900	1		Christmas Eve	2
up to \$2080	1		Christmas Day	6
up to \$3380	1		Ash Wednesday	4
up to \$4011	1		Lenten	6
up to \$7200	1		Maundy Thurs.	3
			Good Friday	2
Wedding/with rehearsal			Easter	6
\$75	1		Ascension	-
\$50	3			
\$40	1			
\$35	1			
			BENEFITS	
Wedding/without rehearsal				
\$50	2		Dollar Value of all	
\$40	1		Benefits:	
			\$1200 - \$7200	
Funeral			Vacation:	
\$50	2		2 weeks	1
\$40	1		4 weeks	2
\$35	1		Blank	3
\$30	1		Social Security	6
			Pension Plan	0
Substitute Fees:			Health Insurance	0
			Sick Leave	0
Organist/1 Service			Sabbatical	3
\$100	1		Private Teaching	3
\$ 50	1		A.G.O. Dues	0
\$ 40	1		Conferences/Etc.	3
\$ 35	1		Education/Lessons	0
\$ 22	1		Cost of Living 1-2%	
Organist/2 Services (same)				
\$ 65	1		Contracts Yes	2
\$ 32	1		No	4
Organist/Rehearsals			Organist/Director	
\$ 10	1		2 Services \$ 85	1

Compiled by Norman D. Hansen

MESSIAH SING-ALONG (Press Release)

AGO, in cooperation with the Abendmusik Concert Series is proud to present the first annual Fargo/Moorhead Community Messiah Sing-Along.

[The local orchestra has dropped annual performances of Messiah in recent years, and many people have commented that they have missed the Christmas time tradition.]

These two organizations are planning to hire the finest orchestra players in the area, along with the most well-known regional singers (such as Lucy Thrasher), and invite the community to serve as the chorus for an enthusiastic performance of Handel's oratorio masterpiece.

We expect several hundred singers to participate and invite you to enlist support of your churches and choirs. Remember, anyone can sing, regardless of

The performance will be November 20th at 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo. There will be a 45 minute rehearsal at 6:00 that evening. Participants will be asked to pay a \$4.00 (\$1.00 for students) fee to help underwrite the fees of the professional musicians. Participants may bring their own copy of Messiah or purchase a score of chorus parts prepared for the event for \$2.00.

We hope you will join us.

Submitted by Gary Thrasher, First Presbyterian, Fargo

DIMENSIONS OF AGO DALLAS 1994
Luther Frette -- Grand Forks, N.D.

A stereotype almost kept me from attending AGO Dallas 94. Somehow I had equated a national convention of the American Guild of Organists as strictly an elitist conclave. I envisioned groups of Eastman graduates discussing Mendelssohn's influence on the romantic period in organ literature.

Nevertheless, a great experience at the 1993 Region VI convention in the Quad Cities heightened my determination to be a part of this year's Dallas event. As a result, on Saturday, July 9th, I found myself waiting at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport for a shuttle van that would take me to the Loews-Anatole Hotel.

An unexpected welcoming party greeted me at the hotel. The Brazil soccer team had just won a finals game, and players were leading an impromptu victory parade in the entrance foyer. The unlikely pairing of soccer fans and church organists as hotel guests amused me often during that opening weekend.

Those days of AGO Dallas 94 became a fast-moving feast of recitals, worship services, and workshops. The two main competition events were intriguing. Hearing the finalists in organ improvisation reminded me of the sparkling bursts of creativity that are possible with the king of instruments. I found myself being an impromptu judge as I attended the competition in organ performance. The three finalists played the same four selections, and what proved crucial were the differences in registration and interpretation. The winner, Douglas Cleveland, perhaps claimed victory because of the tonal contrasts and verve that he brought to Ned Rorem's "Sunday Night." It was a fascinating performance.

The daytime recitals exuded variety. My favorite was Marilyn Keiser's recital at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. There seemed to be an immediate synergy between organist and audience. Each selection stood in bold relief with its own unique fusion of energy and registration. To me the program exemplified what every recital should be--a captivating appeal to listeners with diverse backgrounds. Too often organ recitals are sluggish because of their exasperating sameness. In the process the most dynamic instrument becomes a bore. Well, there were no glazed eyes during Dr. Keiser's recital!

Rarely does a person have the chance to attend a symphony orchestra concert featuring the organ as solo instrument. It was a special treat, then, to witness the Dallas Symphony Orchestra as it hosted three organists--Mary Preston, David Schrader, and Jean Guillou--in an evening concert at the Meyerson Symphony Center. The jewel of that marvelous setting was the C. B. Fisk organ with its 4,535 pipes arranged in a spectacular facade. Each performance that night

Choral & Inst. Descants - GIA
Randall He Bruyn

1-800-

Vol 4 - General.

Choral Descants Vol. 1 - Adv. Ch. Ep.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Red River Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 2223

Fargo, ND 58108

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Blessed - John Michaels

You Are Mine - David Haas

Sg or Hd's Sweetness - Ernest Sands
harmony

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Guitar ad. anteqd.

seemed to outdo the preceding one, leaving the audience magically transported to an incredible dimension of listening pleasure. For most convention organists, that exquisite evening easily formed the week's climax.

There are many terrific images of the Dallas mosaic that still linger in my mind. Discovering instant friendship with other organists as we met on the buses transporting us around Dallas. Sitting in beautiful church sanctuaries and thrilling at the various pipe arrangements. Feeling the drama of the many inspiring stained-glass windows. Talking with several teenage organists who offered preludes at the morning worship services. Sensing their wide-eyed wonder in being at the convention. Feasting on the stacks of organ CDs displayed at the exhibits. Listening to retiring AGO President James Mooser as he gave a charge about the organist's role in worship. Seeing the Lone Star State flag flying outside the convention hotel.

Now what about the stereotype so linked with a national AGO convention in my mind? That July week in Dallas happily removed it, replacing the misconceptions with an unforgettable experience.

Others who went to Dallas from our area: Marlys Herring and Mike Olson, Fargo/Moorhead; George French and John Vanella, Crookston; Barry Wenger, Grand Forks; and Bill Wojnar, Jamestown.

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER PIPELINE, THURSDAY/SEPTEMBER 29TH

REGION VI
Kansas City
June 18-21, 1995

NEW YORK CITY
AGO
96
CENTENNIAL
CONVENTION
JULY 7-11

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

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

Contributions are encouraged in
writing (or printed neatly...).

Please send to:

Bob Hachmeister
910 4th Avenue North
Moorhead, MN 56560