



The American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

March, 1985

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 6

Dear Guild Member,

As you know, the guest recital for the 1984-85 program year will be given by GILLIAN WEIR on Sunday, March 31 (Palm Sunday) at 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Ms. Weir was the unanimous choice of the program committee as they considered more than 50 possible recitalists. Those of us who had the opportunity to hear her perform and meet her at the national convention in San Francisco last summer, are convinced that she will present a stunning program.

Of course, we urge you to attend the recital and invite others to attend with you.

While we feel most fortunate in being able to book Ms. Weir during her 1985 United States tour, we are well aware that we have committed the chapter to a substantial financial obligation. Our plan to meet this financial obligation includes a solicitation to the community. We hope that many members of the chapter will also want to support the concert with a contribution.

As a member of the chapter, you are especially invited to attend the master class given by Ms. Weir, Sunday evening, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran organ. The class was scheduled Sunday evening to enable members with work and other commitments during the week to attend and participate in the class.

Please complete the enclosed form and return it with your contribution in the envelope provided before March 15 to insure that your name will be included in the printed program. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Joan E. Bystol, Dean

Jack Close, Program chairperson

A Letter FROM the Editor:

FROM THE DEAN.....

In conversations among members of the Guild over the past several years, numerous thoughts/concerns/suggestions have been expressed. Some of these might serve as grist for one or other of our various committees:

1) A list of large choral works, brass descants, hymn concertati, piano/organ duets, etc. found in the libraries of members's churches could be compiled and distributed to encourage interchurch lending. The catalog could be annotated indicating quality, difficulty, and required resources.

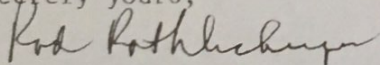
2) A survey of the membership could bring to light program suggestions; areas of specialized interests/abilities/resources that have not yet been tapped; and matters regarding professional growth and status.

3) A summer meeting for social, planning, or workshop purposes might be useful.

4) A liaison with the ministeria of Fargo and Moorhead for the purpose of dialogue: exchange ideas and concerns.

This list will be continued in the next newsletter, and so, if you have other thoughts that have been lurking in the back of your mind, share them: it's the only way we can grow and evolve into a truly professional organization of service to our membership and to the community-at-large.

Sincerely yours,



Rod Rothlisberger
7 Eighth Ave. S.
Moorhead, MN 56560

EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES--
February 17.

New Business: The Nominating Committee was announced. It will consist of Carolyn Hensrud, Bruce Jacobs, and Marlys Herring. The chapter was told by the dean that the nominating committee will advise all potential individuals who are candidates for various offices and positions of the responsibility and commitment that is involved. The election will take place at the April meeting.

The dean indicated that people are still needed and welcome to perform original compositions of various types at the April meeting.

The meeting and program on April 14 will be at 4:00 p.m. instead of at 3:00 p.m. as originally printed in the yearbook.

Bradley J. Steen
Secretary

On February 25, I attended the meeting of the Lake Agassiz Arts Council Board of Trustees at the Townhouse. After my brief presentation to the Board on "who we are" and "what we do," the Red River Valley Chapter of the AGO was unanimously accepted as an associate member of the LAAC. A representative from our chapter will attend monthly meetings and we will be entitled to one vote in the election of officers and trustees, and in any balloting at meetings of the Council. I am looking forward to our association with the LAAC. To be part of a group that strives to create an environment in which the arts can grow and promotes the development of such activities will certainly be beneficial to us as we begin to realize what we ourselves can do in our community.

Also, there is still time to compose yourself, that is, to see what piece of motet from counterpoint class, fuggetta, hymn introduction, or choral offering lies hidden among your "harmonic collectibles" and would make a nice addition to the April program. Several interesting pieces have been turned in so far. It should be fun!!

Committee reports are due in to the Dean at the April Meeting. The report should be brief, a procedure outline, perhaps, and include samples of mailings, expenses, etc. and in duplicate, if possible. One copy for the Dean's file and one for the next chairman. Reports will be expected from the Hymn Festival, Newsletter, Hospitality, Membership and Program (excluding Hymn Festival and Oratorio) Committees.

On the Agenda for new business at the April meeting will be the publication over summer of a RRVAGO cookbook to celebrate our 40th Anniversary. Think about it....

Sincerely,
Your Dean

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ABENDMUSIKEN CONTINUE

On Sunday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m., Gail Hall will present a saxophone recital in the Jenny Roberts Room of First Presbyterian Church, Fargo. Assisted by Jennifer Hall, flute, and Peter Nygaard, piano, Mr. Hall will perform works by Telemann, Bach, Saint-Saens, Ibert, Dubois, Ravel, and Gershwin.

FACULTY VOICE RECITAL RESCHEDULED

Gay Mohr has rescheduled her Faculty Voice Recital for Sunday, March 10, at 4:00 p.m. in the Hvidsten Recital Hall at Concordia College. Accompanied by Peter Nygaard, she will present a varied program of music by Wolf, Brahms, Rossini, and Menotti, along with groups of Mountain Ballades and Broadway Songs.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

- March 14
7:00 p.m. Recital of Chorale Preludes from the Bach "Orgelbüchlein" (Chorale Preludes No. 1-23) by Concordia College organ students. Come and bring your Bach "Liturgical Year." Trinity Lutheran Church
- March 19
7:00 p.m. Chorale Preludes No. 24-45 from the "Orgelbüchlein" Trinity Lutheran Church
- March 24
8:00 p.m. Senior Organ Recital by Dorothy Koopmann. Trinity Lutheran Church

March Pipedreams on KCCM (91.1 FM)

March 3: Spring Membership Week-- a time to make a commitment of financial support to Public Radio.

Sunday, March 10, 9:30 p.m.

Bach Prelude: performances by members of the Twin Cities Chapter on the 1976 Casavant Organ (18 stops) at the Church of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in St. Paul

Sunday, March 17, 9:30 p.m.

The German Organ Mass: a performance recorded on the Casavant organ at St. Clement's Church, Chicago. Introductory commentary is provided by Harvard University Musicologist Christophe Wolff, noted Bach scholar and author of the Bach article in the New Grove Dictionary

Sunday, March 24, 9:30 p.m.

Bach and Forth: while the pendulum of taste is forever swinging, the music of J. S. Bach remains a constant attraction. What does change is the performer's approach to Bach interpretation, and our ideals of the 'proper' Bach organ sound.

Sunday, March 31, 9:30 p.m.

Come On Bach!--celebrated composers' musical tributes to J. S. Bach using the theme derived from his last name.

GILLIAN WEIR RECITAL THIS MONTH

The chapter is pleased to announce that world-renowned organist, Gillian Weir, has been engaged to play a recital on the 45-rank Holtkamp organ at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead on Sunday, March 31, at 4:00 p.m. This recital is sponsored by the AGO to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birthday of J. S. Bach and is free and open to the public. On Sunday evening at 7:30, Miss Weir will conduct a Master Class in the rear gallery of Trinity Lutheran Church. This class is also free and open to the public.

Miss Weir's international career began in 1964 when she won first place in the International Organ Competition at St. Alban's, England. By 1970 she had performed on every continent and today is probably the most widely-travelled concert organist in the world. Each season sees her appearing as recitalist, performing with major orchestras, recording, conducting clinics, or lecturing in dozens of countries. She is a noted music scholar, has written four articles for the Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, and has contributed to many other publications. According to the Melbourne, Australia, Herald, Miss Weir is "...describable as an absolute knockoutextraordinarily exhilarating."

Mary Tangen

GILLIAN WEIR MASTER CLASS

The Gillian Weir Master Class will be held on Sunday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. following her recital at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Organists and compositions are as follows:

- Peter Nygaard: Bach--Passacaglia
Betty Ann Boulton: Messiaen--"Outburst of Joy" from the Ascension Suite
Joan Bystol: Distler--Wachet auf (Tocatta and Bicinium)
Thomas Hamilton: Messiaen--"Dieu Parmi Nous" from the Nativity Suite
Judy Sanders: Dupre--Prelude and Fugue in G Minor
Carolyn Hensrud: Marcel Dupre--Souvenir (From 7 Pieces, Op. 127)
Alternate--Todd Nolde: Reger--Introduction and Passacaglia

INTRODUCTIONS:

New Member, Carol Long, came to the Fargo-Moorhead area in October of 1983 from a teaching position at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Holder of a Ph.D. in Food Science from Pennsylvania State University, she is a Research Scientist in Product Development at General Nutrition in Fargo. She also directs one of the bell choirs and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir at First Presbyterian Church.

ADDITIONS:

Berkley Guse
Box 505
Concordia College
Moorhead, MN 56560

299-3979

DON'T MISS A FREE CHANCE to sign up for a committee for next year at the April meeting!

SEE APRIL NEWSLETTER FOR: "A Choir
Director's Guide to Keeping Organists
in Line."