



The American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

April, 1985

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 7

APRIL 14 MEETING AT 4:00 P.M.

A program of compositions by our members will be presented. Organ works by Dorothy Koopmann, Susan Clambey, Todd Nolde and Kris Kvamme will be played. An Easter anthem by Susan Clambey and two hymn settings by Jack Close will be sung by the "AGO Choir," in addition to a set of refrains and verses for the church year and Communion by Kris Kvamme.

The Choir will rehearse one hour before the program at 3:00 p.m. in the Gethsemane Cathedral Sanctuary.

A business meeting, including the election of officers, will precede the social hour in the Atwill Room. Hope to see you all there!!

The Dean

A CHOIR DIRECTOR'S GUIDE TO KEEPING ORGANISTS IN LINE:

- 1) Place yourself in such a way that the organist cannot see your beat, especially the down beat. This should keep him/her guessing.
- 2) Occasionally say: "Just transpose this up a major third (or, better yet, a tritone)!"
- 3) When you make a conducting error, glare at the organist so that the choir and the congregation will KNOW who was responsible.
- 4) Mention, in passing, how extremely competent the former organist was.
- 5) While the organist is playing his/her most difficult voluntary, attempt to start a discussion about something very trivial. This is bound unnerve him/her.

Treasurer Phil Felde requests that any problems with membership details (fee payments, receipt of the American Organist or this newsletter, or whatever) should be brought to his attention.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Members are requested to complete the form at the bottom of this column and return it by April 14 to Dean Joan Bystol, 3701 Kennedy St., Fargo, ND 58103 or bring it to the April 14 meeting at Gethsemane Cathedral.

If you have served only one year on a given committee, your continued service would be helpful in providing continuity to that committee. However, if you have already served on a committee for two (2) consecutive years, you may wish to offer your time and talents to another committee.

If you wish to chair a committee, a personal contact with the Dean would be in order.

You may expect me to actively participate on the following committee(s) for 1984-86:

- _____ Educational Concerns
- _____ Hymn Festival
- _____ Hospitality
- _____ Membership
- _____ Professional Concerns
- _____ Program
- _____ Publicity/Newsletter
- _____ Other

NAME

A Letter FROM the Editor:

As a continuation of the thoughts/concerns/suggestions listed in last month's Newsletter, the following possibilities are being offered:

5) A Placement clearing house to assist our members and area churches by: announcing positions; suggesting interview and audition procedures; providing contracts and job descriptions; and recommending salaries and personnel management policies.

6) A Regional Convention in Fargo-Moorhead as early as 1989: we have the resources; do we have the "chutzpah"?

7) Establish the office of Chapter Historian, especially in this 40th Anniversary year.

8) A Workshop in which we utilize the resources within our chapter and our community to guide, instruct, and assist rural church musicians and clergy in our region: private lessons, rap sessions, instructional clinics, et al.

9) Programs from outside the chapter: the Hymn Society of America; the Twin Cities Chapter; other AGO Chapters in Minnesota, North and South Dakota; our National Leadership.

This list will be continued in the May Newsletter, and so please contribute your ideas freely.

Sincerely yours,

Rod Rothlisberger

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

Editor's Note:

Since the wedding season is soon upon us, a copy of a wedding agreement is enclosed with the Newsletter. Something of this sort might be useful to you either as an agreement or merely as a checkoff list as you converse with brides and grooms in planning their ceremonies.

On the reverse side of the agreement is a copy of a letter forwarded to members' churches in December, 1983, regarding fees. This may be of assistance to members who have joined our chapter since that time.

Also, see the March edition of The American Organist for further thoughts on wedding planning (p. 43).

REVISED SUBSTITUTE/GUEST MUSICIAN LIST TO BE PUBLISHED

Since vacation time is fast approaching, there will be a need for substitute organists and guest musicians. Therefore it is appropriate that we should update our lists and publish them in the May Newsletter.

If you wish to be included on this list please complete the following form return it by May 1 to:

R.J. ROTH LISBERGER
7 EIGHTH AVE. SOUTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ABENDMUSIK SERIES

On April 21, at 7:30 p.m., the four handbell choirs of First Presbyterian Church--Fargo will present a concert as a part of the Abendmusik Series. The concert will be held in the sanctuary with no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be gathered to defray the costs of the series.

NAME _____			
	Organist	_____	
	Vocalist	_____	
	Other	_____	
Weddings	Funerals	Services	
_____	_____	_____	Summer, 1985 Only
_____	_____	_____	Winter, 1985-1986, Only
_____	_____	_____	Both Summer and Winter 1985-86

WEDDING ORGAN MUSIC AGREEMENT

WEDDING of: _____ and _____

DATE of CEREMONY: _____ DATE of REHEARSAL: _____

TIME of CEREMONY: _____ TIME of REHEARSAL: _____

CHURCH: _____

SOLOIST(S): _____; Telephone: _____

_____; Telephone: _____

MINISTER: _____; Telephone: _____

MUSIC:

Processional: _____

Recessional: _____

Hymns: _____

Solo(s) requiring organist's accompaniment on piano or organ: _____

_____;

Prelude (15-20 minutes) special requests?: _____

Postlude (special requests?): _____

Organist fee for 1) a consultation with the couple prior to the wedding, 2) personal practice time, 3) the wedding rehearsal, and 4) the wedding itself: \$.

Rehearsals with vocal and/or instrumental soloist(s) should take place at the time of the wedding rehearsal (preferably $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 hour before, if convenient to all parties), since additional meetings or rehearsals are \$. each.

All fees are payable at the beginning of the wedding rehearsal so as to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.

Signed: _____ Telephone: _____ Date: _____
Bride &/or Groom

Signed: _____ Telephone: _____ Date: _____
Organist

Return one copy to me at least one week prior to the wedding:



The American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

December 27, 1983

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which consists of 65 professional church musicians serving an area extending from Grand Forks to Aberdeen and Detroit Lakes to Jamestown, has recently reviewed compensation for church weddings. As a result, we propose an increase in our standard fee.

This increased fee is based on 1) a consultation with the couple prior to the wedding, 2) personal practice time, 3) a wedding rehearsal, and 4) the ceremony itself, along with escalating costs of printed music and mileage.

Remuneration for extra meetings, or additional rehearsals with soloists and/or instrumentalists, are negotiable with the organist. All fees should be payable at the beginning of the wedding rehearsal.

By vote of our membership, the recommended wedding fee for member organists, as of January 1, 1984, is \$50.

Sincerely yours,

DEAN

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS

COMING EVENTS

ORGAN CRAWL

Friday, April 12, at 8:15 p.m.

Organ Recital--Peter Nygaard at Trinity Lutheran Church--Moorhead.

Sunday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Senior Organ Recital--Tom Hamilton at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Sunday, April 21, at 2:00 p.m.

Junior Organ Recital--Todd Nolde at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Monday, April 22, at 8:15 p.m.

Senior Organ Recital--Betty Boulton at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Sunday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m.

Organ Recital -- Berkley Guse at Trinity Lutheran Church.

George French has consented to guide an Organ Crawl to a number of interesting organs and churches in the northern Red River Valley on Sunday, May 19. The tentative plans are for leaving the Concordia Music Building parking lot in Moorhead at 1:00 p.m. bound for Crookston. There we will visit Trinity Lutheran where George plays a 38-rank, 3 manual Schlicker. We will have coffee and rolls at Trinity and then visit the United Methodist Church and Mt. St. Benedict. In the Grand Forks area, we will stop at a restaurant where you can order the dinner of your choice at your own expense. After dinner, we will visit three organs in Grand Forks: an Aeolian Skinner in the Presbyterian Church, a Casavant in a Lutheran Church, and a newer Casavant installation in Grand Forks. We will return to Moorhead before 10:00 p.m.

APRIL PIPEDREAMS on KCCM (91.1 FM)

Sunday, April 7, 9:30 p.m.

A collection of music for the Easter Season.

Sunday, April 14, 9:30 p.m.

Bach Again?: More performances by members of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO, recorded on the 18-stop Casavant organ (1976) at Maternity of Mary Church in St. Paul. Despite its diminutive size, this amazing organ is perfectly matched to its room and proves to be a very convincing interpreter of the music of J. S. Bach.

Sunday, April 21, 9:30 p.m.

The Silent Organ: a cautionary tale of Father Henry Willis and the great organ at London's Alexandra Palace. Installed in 1875 in the acoustically superb Great Hall, the Alexandra Palace Organ was considered by those who played it to be the best concert organ in Europe. The mighty four-manual, 98-stop instrument was an extremely popular musical attraction in the years between the wars. It was damaged by a German buzz-bomb and has been mute since. A campaign is under way to restore the organ and return it to prime condition.

Sunday, April 28, 9:30 p.m.

Performances on the recently restored historic organ at the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam.

We will travel by new, chartered bus equipped with stereo tape decks, comfortable seats with foot rests, washrooms, and all the comforts of home. The cost, excluding dinner, will depend upon the number of participants--not more than \$10.00 per person if we have a minimum of 25 people going.

The host at each church will introduce us to the instrument and then allow us to play so bring music.

This is an ideal event for introducing friends and prospective members to our chapter. Spouses, friends, and other interested people are cordially invited to participate.

Please use the coupon below to reserve your place(s) for the Organ Crawl. The reservation fee is non-refundable after May 1, 1985. The balance of \$5.00 or less (depending on the number of participants) will be due on May 19.

ORGAN CRAWL

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$5.00 per person) for the Organ Crawl, May 19, 1985 leaving and returning to the Concordia Music Building.

Name(s)

Clip and send with your check to:
Phil Felde
1408 14th Street S.
Moorhead, MN 56560

INTRODUCTIONS:

Mary Jane Halverson is a Public School Music graduate of Concordia where she sang in Concert Choir. She has taught music in Roseau and Barnesville, and is currently co-organist at Calvary Lutheran Church in Grand Forks. She has been a church musician for several years during which she has directed several children's choirs and had a successful Boys' Choir at Calvary. Besides teaching piano in her home, she enjoys singing with the Community Chorus, cross-country skiing, sailing, folk painting and swimming.

Shannon Jones has been organist for the past 8 years at Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji, Minnesota. This year her job was expanded to Pastoral Assistant in Worship and Music. Shannon began her organ study with Sue Forkney Walby in Viroqua, Wisconsin, and is now completing her B.S. in Elementary Education at Bemidji State University, with organ as her instrument. Besides raising an active family, Shannon enjoys knitting.

Keith Melberg is a programmer/analyst for Otter Tail Power Co. in Fergus Falls. He has been organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for 10 years and sings with the Geneva Eschweiler Singers, who perform contemporary, gospel, and classical literature. He enjoys reading, music, and gardening.

GILLIAN WEIR RECITAL

As I prepared to write this article, I referred back to agendas for program committee meetings held this year. Item # 1 of our first meeting (April 14, 1984) was "Guest Recital: Artist ?, Date ?, Place ?, Necessary funding ?, Committee organization ?" The program committee spent nearly an entire year answering those questions asked last April. If the Palm Sunday concert was a success (as I think it was), it was the result of 11 months of hard work on the part of the Program Committee, Chapter Officers and Board Members, our Newsletter/Publicity Chairman, the Hospitality Committee, and many additional Chapter members. I want to thank all of these people and add a special word of gratitude to Peter Nygaard who gave up major practice time on Palm Sunday weekend to make the Trinity organ available to Ms. Weir.

In her class, Ms. Weir made a distinction between "playing" (or "singing") music and "performing" music. The former has to do with hitting the right notes in the correct time. The latter involves technique and scholarship plus countless other human and natural phenomena that influence how we approach the music and what we hope to achieve when we perform it. In her recital, Ms. Weir demonstrated musical performance; in her class, she gave us many insights how we might better attain musical performances in our services and recitals.

Jack Close

UPDATED SUBSTITUTE LIST--ORGAN

W - Weddings
F - Funerals
S - Services

Fargo-Moorhead Area

WF	Solveig Bartz	233-2140
WFS	Betty Boulton	237-0431
WF	Joan Bystol	235-4335
WF	Susan Clambey	233-6652
WF	Norma Halverson	235-5077
WFS	Carolyn Hensrud	280-2189
WF	Susan Knorr	585-4542
F	Dorothy Koopmann	218-847-5842
F	Peter Nygaard	237-0218
WF	Rod Rothlisberger	233-6603
WF	Judy Sanders	236-0269
WFS	Pat Unkenholz	232-1435

Surrounding Areas

WFS	Phyllis Folstad	218-643-8992
	Breckenridge, MN	
WFS	Sister Virginia Houske	218-281-3441
	Crookston, MN	
WFS	Oscar Jemtrud	701-786-2156
	Mayville, ND	
WF	Dorothy Koopmann	218-847-5824
	Detroit Lakes, MN	
WF	Diane Kvamme	218-886-7155
	Shelly, MN	
WFS	Mercedes Roos	218-483-4233
	Hawley, MN	
WFS	James Taylor	701-746-4889
	Grand Forks, ND	

VOCAL/CHORAL

WFS	Rosemarie Johnk	236-5322
WFS	Gay Mohr	236-9724
WF	Rod Rothlisberger	233-6603
WFS	Carol Saastad	235-9176
		or 236-2922

HANDBELL SOLOIST

WFS	Pat Unkenholz	232-1435
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CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 1985-86

Dean	Joan Bystol
Subdean	Lance Johnson
Secretary	Brad Steen
Treasurer	Phil Felde
Member-at-large	Jack Close (3-year)
	Bruce Jacobs (2-yr)
	Sue Clambey (1-yr)

INTRODUCTIONS:

Mavis Tjon has her degree in organ from Concordia. She is currently teaching grades 1 - 8 Music at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Moorhead and is organist at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo. For the past 5 years she has been breeding, training and showing toy poodles.

June Boyd has her undergraduate degree from Westminster Choir College and a Master's Degree in Voice from the University of Denver. Currently, she is Asst. Prof. of Music at Concordia where she teaches voice, and she directs the Adult Choir at Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo.

Gail Haugen has her degree in Social Work and Spanish from Concordia, where she studied organ with Ruth Berge. She is currently Director of Volunteer Services and Music at Eventide Lutheran Home, Moorhead. She plays bassoon with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, F-M Opera, and several chamber groups, and is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Richard Wyble has his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and a Master's Degree in Sacred Music from Wittenberg University. He is currently Director of Music at Grace Lutheran Church, Hallock, Minnesota.

MAY PIPEDREAMS on KCCM (91.1 FM)

Sunday, May 5, 9:30 p.m.

A recital from the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, recorded by Radio Nederland during the 1984 Organ Week Festival.

Sunday, May 12, 9:30 p.m.

A recital from the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, recorded during the 1984 Organ Week Festival.

Sunday, May 19, 9:30 p.m.

Performances on the organ of St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud by members of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO.

Sunday, May 26, 9:30 p.m.

A Program of music for Pentecost Sunday, recorded at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Are you interested in learning the art of handbell ringing? EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HANDBELLS...* will be offered to AGO members by Pat Unkenholz, beginning in September. Pat is nationally certified as a clinician and massed choir director by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and is directing two handbell choirs at Calvary United Methodist Church.

A minimum of 7 ringers will be needed, with an option of expanding to 10-11. Given our individual schedules, a ridiculous rehearsal hour such as 7 a.m. (or would you believe 10 p.m.?) may be necessary. Reserve a position by calling Pat (232-1435) at a ridiculous hour!

*BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

MAY-JUNE BIRTHDAYS

May	1	- L. Sowerby
	7	- J. Brahms P. Tchaikovsky
	12	- J. Massenet
	13	- G. Faure R. Rothlisberger
	22	- R. Wagner
June	6	- R. Schumann J. Stainer
	16	- E. Grieg
	17	- C. Gounod I. Stravinsky

FIRST LUTHERAN WELCOMES NEW ORGANIST WITH RECITAL

Michael Olson, new organist at First Lutheran, Fargo, will play an all-Bach recital there on Tuesday, May 21, at 8:00 p.m. Included on the program will be several chorale preludes, the E^b Major Trio Sonata, the Prelude and Fugue in E^b Major, and the Toccata and Fugue in D Minor.

Mike is returning to Fargo-Moorhead where he received his Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia in 1979. In the interim he has completed a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Southern Methodist University and served as Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ABENDMUSIK SERIES

On Sunday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. the First Presbyterian (Fargo) Abendmusic Series continues with a program by the Tri-College Woodwind Ensemble. The members of this group, Katheryn Frost, John Jystad, Lynette Marchello, Kari Mickelson and Catherine Tesch, are among the finest woodwind players in this area and have performed with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony and Opera.