



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 26, Number 3

March 2009

Upcoming Organ Recitals

Don't miss the upcoming organ recitals by these Concordia College students. All recitals are at Trinity Lutheran Church, 210 7th Street South, Moorhead.

Andrew Steinberg ~ Sunday, March 15 at 2:30 pm

Lindsay Huwe ~ Sunday, April 5 at 2:30 pm

Mark Sell ~ Sunday, April 5 at 4:00 pm

Stephanie Wikstrom ~ Sunday, April 19 at 2:30 pm

Rebecca Petersen ~ Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 pm

Joseph Trucano ~ Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 pm

Come and support these young people and their teacher, Peter Nygaard. All organ recitals are free and open to the public. ☺

Message From the Dean

I have just changed jobs! I didn't have to change—but I felt COMPELLED to change—I wanted to work for this amazing boss at my new company. It matters a great deal who you work for. I think



we all work harder...push ourselves more easily when we love our bosses and when we have a common mission in mind. When we love our boss, we love our

work too. I'm excited about my new adventure and my new boss.

The Lenten season is a time of looking inward... a time to contemplate our great blessings in Christ. One of our shared blessings—is our "boss". Even though we play organ and direct choirs for many different churches and denominations...we have the same "boss". That's why we don't tire of our work. That's why practicing organ is a labor of love. We love our boss! We love because He first loved us.

I was thinking about what to "give up" for Lent. I'm giving up worrying about things so much... Give it to Jesus. I'm letting go and letting God be boss. He is so much better at directing my life than I am!! When we play for worship...when we direct choirs and bells for

worship... we are giving the Lord our worship. So when you feel frustrated by church politics and congregational "ups and downs"...remember who's boss...and continue to focus on giving the Lord glory and praise. For it is Christ's love that sustains us and empowers us for our music ministry.

An upcoming program note! Although Sheila does a fabulous job of noting the upcoming events in the Pipeline, I'd like to personally encourage our RRVAGO members to attend the student recital at 7:00 on March 23rd at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. *We need to support our future organists!* It's our turn to encourage these wonderful organ students just as we received support when we were in their shoes! And you know how uncomfortable those organ shoes can be!

There are so many opportunities at our fingertips today. Take time to read your TAO magazine cover to cover, then surf through the AGO website, and of course you need to read about the events listed in our Pipeline. Regional conventions, recitals, workshops, organ tours, to name a few...there's no reason to be bored this summer. And for goodness sakes---have fun and join the RRVAGO board---don't sit on the sidelines---dive into the many experiences waiting for you!

~Bill Tweten, Dean

First Friday Luncheon

Who Everyone is Welcome!

When First Friday of the Month at Noon

Where Fryn' Pan
302 Main Ave, Fargo

Chapter Officers

Dean: Bill Tweten

Sub-Dean: Marty Baumgartner

Secretary: Michael Olson

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

Board Members at Large

2009: Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp

Board Meeting Notes

February 19, 2009: The following people were in attendance at the AGO Board Meeting: Alpha Roeszler, Ruth Strawn, Sonia Carlson, Michael Olson, and Bill Tweten (dean).

A motion was made by Ruth, seconded by Sonia, to approve the secretary's report from the January meeting. The motion passed.

The treasurer's report was presented by Ruth:

The beginning balance in the checking account was \$730.97. There was a receipt of \$40 for membership dues. Expenses included the following: \$10 to the Secretary of State (to keep our non-profit status for another year), \$86.80 for the Music of Love program, \$42 for a roll of stamps, and \$53 for the P.O. Box rent for another year. The ending balance in the checking account was \$579.17.

The CDs have not changed in value from last month: the original conventional CD contains \$5484.11, the new flexible CD contains \$5000 -- the total of both CDs is \$10,484.11.

The grand total of all assets is \$11,063.28.

A motion was made by Alpha, seconded by Michael, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed.

The next AGO program will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Monday, March 23 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Several of Peter Nygaard's college students will be featured in a student organ recital. There will be a reception in the lounge following the concert. Several of those students will be featured in organ recitals in the coming two months. Dates and times will have to be secured from Trinity, or the music department at Concordia College.

We talked about the Music of Love AGO program held at First Lutheran Church on February 11th. There was a variety of music presented at the program, and a number of different people sang and/or played. The reception was very good. The readings were very nice and appropriate for the season. The program was a good length -- just about one hour. There was a good group of people in attendance. Not only were folks from First Lutheran there for their Wednesday Fellowship program, but there were people from other churches as well. The board is definitely in favor of having another daytime program for many positive reasons. Of course, for those who work during the day, a daytime AGO program is not good. But, those who were in attendance enjoyed the program immensely!

We discussed securing a guest organist for the 2009-2010 season. Bill, Marty, and Michael will be members of a sub-committee to discuss this matter. It would be great to have someone in place to begin the 2009-2010 season but, considering that it's almost March and a recitalist has not yet been secured, we might need to wait until the spring of 2010.

The Nominating Committee needs to begin its work in securing names for several board positions that will become vacant as of June 30, 2009. Gaylord Fagerland is chair of the Nominating Committee, but he was not at today's board meeting.

We briefly mentioned the Bell-a-bration scheduled for Sunday, April 19 (the Sunday after Easter) at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Nativity in south Fargo. Six bell choirs will take part in this exciting event.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at noon at Boulger Funeral Home.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Olson, AGO Secretary

Help Wanted: Organist

Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo is looking for an organist. If you are interested, please call the church at 237-9651 and ask for Jarl Iverson.



Composer Corner

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

This German composer of great symphonies, songs, and chamber music was universally loved. And a principal, endearing quality was his unassuming modesty. Johannes Brahms would know world renown in his lifetime, becoming one of the most successful composers of the nineteenth century.

Yet even at the height of his fame, Brahms – who had been born in the slums of Hamburg – usually wore old, simple clothing; he enjoyed taking long country walks and eating in plain roadside cafes. He was a quiet benefactor to the poor around him, made friends easily, and was particularly fond of children. A bachelor, Brahms was unpretentious in his lifestyle. In fact, he grew the long bushy beard so prominent in his best portraits because he was tired of shaving and wearing ties!

In the midst of his unsought fame, which puzzled and amused him, Brahms was modest and unassuming about

his creations. He once mailed – unregistered – the only existing manuscript copy of his Fourth Symphony to a conductor. In a fury, the conductor, Von Bulow, protested, “What would we have done had the packet gone astray?” Brahms simply stated, “In that case I would have to write the symphony anew.”

But most revealing of Brahms’s modesty are his comments comparing his music to that of other greats: Concerning Mendelssohn, Brahms said, “I’d give all my compositions if I could have written such a piece as the Hebrides Overture.” After playing a Bach sonata, Brahms threw a copy of his own sonata on the floor: “After that, who could play such stuff as this?”

Here is a man who had learned the profound truth of 1 Peter 5:5: “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but give grace to the humble.’”

May we all keep silent and let our work and our character speak for themselves! 🙏

~Bill Tweten, Dean

Credit: Spiritual Moments with the Great Composers by Patrick Kavanaugh

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Hymn Stories

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Ascribed to Bernard of Clairvaux

Written in 1153, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" has stood the test of time. I can hardly think of the Lenten season without this beloved hymn. So often the trite words of contemporary hymns fail to last even 20 years---and this hauntingly beautiful melody has been with us for over 800 years! The hymn writer, Bernard of Clairvaux, was born into a knight's family in a French castle in 1090. He was educated in the fashion of medieval aristocracy, but he later felt the Lord calling him to the monastic ministry. Being a born leader, he arrived at the monastery of Citeaux with thirty other young men whom he had persuaded to join him.

Three years later, Bernard, twenty-five, founded his own monastery at Clairvaux, a town near the Swiss border. Here he would remain the rest of his life. He was a brilliant monk, and in time he advised kings and popes from his monastic cell. Historian Harold O. J. Brown wrote, "The ability of one man without political office or power to change history solely by his teaching and example is without parallel until the sixteenth century when Martin Luther would once again transform Europe from his pulpit and professor's chair in a small town in Saxony."

Bernard fought heresy and helped preserve the doctrine of the Trinity. Yet he also supported Christian military orders such as the Knights Templar- soldiers living under monastic discipline who fought to preserve European

Christianity and fight Muslims in the Holy Land. He advocated a militant faith that depended on both sword and Spirit.

This man, then, is a paradox to us. We don't know whether to claim him or disdain him. Perhaps it's best to leave that judgment to God and to appreciate him for his songs, such as this pensive hymn on the sufferings of Christ, "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded."

Here are two lesser-known verses of this hymn. Transport yourself to Bernard's cloister, and hear these words echoing through the dimly lit corridors of the monastery. Consider what the Lord did for you during His six hours on Zion's cross.

Now from Thy cheeks has vanished their color once so fair;

From Thy red lips is banished the splendor that was there.

Grim death, with cruel rigor, hath robbed Thee of Thy life;

Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength in this sad strife.

My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou hast borne for me,

For it was my transgression which brought this woe on Thee.

I cast me down before Thee, wrath were my rightful lot;

Have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not! 🙏

~Bill Tweten, Dean

Credit: *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert Morgan

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Upcoming Events

September 21, 2008, 4:00 pm

The 2008 Minneapolis National Convention Revisited
Peace Lutheran Church, Fargo

October 19, 2008, 4:00 pm

Pipe Spectacular – Music for Organ, and Others
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

December 7, 2008, 3:00 pm

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Moorhead

February 11, 2009, 1:00 pm

A Valentine Recital – Music of Love
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

March 23, 2009, 7:00 pm

Concordia College Organ Students in Recital
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

April 19, 2009, 7:00 pm

BELL-ibration! A Massed Performance of Handbells,
Vocal Choirs, Organ and Other Instruments
Nativity Catholic Church, Fargo

May 2009 (date/time TBA)

Event/location—TBA

Contact Information

American Guild of Organists
Red River Valley Chapter
PO Box 2223
Fargo, ND 58108-2223
rrvago@hotmail.com

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