



April 4 - 4/1985

# The American Guild of Organists

## Red River Valley Chapter

February, 1985

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 4

### FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The organ music of J. S. Bach will be featured on the February program on Sunday, February 17, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, at 3:00 p.m. Several miscellaneous chorales and two of the major works will be played by Ruth Berge, Todd Nolde, Brad Steen, Dorothy Koopmann, Judy Sanders, and Peter Nygaard.

The chorales will include: Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr'; Ein' feste Burg; In dulci jubilo; Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier; Nun freuet euch, liebe Christen, g'mein; Vater unser in Himmelreich, and Wir glauben all' an einen Gott, Vater.

The major works being performed will be: Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor and the F Major Toccata.

### AN ORGANIST'S GUIDE TO KEEPING CHOIR DIRECTORS IN LINE

- 1) Complain about the temperature of the rehearsal room, the lighting, the crowded space, or a draft. It is best to do this when the conductor is under pressure.
- 2) Bury your head in the music just before the downbeat or a cue.
- 3) Look at your watch frequently. Shake it in disbelief occasionally.
- 4) Tell the conductor: "I can't find the beat." Conductors are always sensitive about their conducting technique, so challenge it frequently.
- 5) Ask the conductor if he/she has listened to the Robert Shaw recording of the piece. Imply that he/she could learn a thing or two from it. Also good: "Is this the first time you have conducted this piece?"

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

#### ADDITIONS:

June P. Boyd 233-6967  
614 S. 5th St.  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
Hope Lutheran Church

Gail P. Haugen 236-5803  
418 S. Elm St.  
Moorhead, MN 56560

Richard J. Wyble 218-843-2887  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Box 449  
Hallock, MN 56728

#### CORRECTIONS:

Mike Hamerlik 701-772-5152  
P.O.Box 283  
Grand Forks, ND 58206-0283

#### TRANSITIONS:

Peter Nygaard is now organist at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, having moved from First Lutheran Church, Fargo, at the beginning of the New Year.

Norm Hansen is spending the winter in Arizona where he holds dual membership in the Central Arizona Chapter. He reports that 1984 marked his 50th year as a church musician, but that he is enjoying his retirement. His address is:

8615 E. Apache Trail S-11  
Mesa, Arizona 85207

A Letter FROM the Editor:

After observing the remarkable success of our programs thus far this year, we can not but be reminded that faith in the abilities of our membership and confidence in the support of our community does, in the long run, pay off. We are seeing that good planning, hard work, and adequate budgets have a positive, cumulative effect on program participation and attendance, as well as financial success. As we keep a wary eye on self-aggrandizement, we continue to work diligently for the good of the art, the profession, and the organization. Now, to sustain this kind of achievement in the future.

Sincerely yours,

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

TREASURER'S REPORT on HYMN FESTIVAL  
and CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

1) Hymn Festival:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Expenses	\$815.80	\$799.53
Income	350.00	836.00
Net	<u>(\$465.80)</u>	<u>\$36.47</u>

2) Christmas Oratorio:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Expenses	\$1630.00	\$1796.35
Income	1065.00	1876.48
Net	<u>(\$ 565.00)</u>	<u>\$80.13</u>

NOTES from the MINUTES of the LAST MEETING:

Oct. 21, 1984--Lutheran Church of the  
Good Shepherd

1) The membership approved our membership  
in the Lake Agassiz Arts Council.

2) The May meeting will constitute an  
organ crawl in Grand Forks and Crookston--  
an opportunity to visit organs in these  
areas, as well as to encourage church  
musicians in these communities to become  
members of our chapter.

MEMBERSHIP CONCERNS:

We are saddened by the death of Ardis  
and Marvin Witte's granddaughter, Andrea  
Witte, on January 20. She had been in  
Pittsburg since Dec. 26 awaiting a liver  
transplant. Throughout her ordeal she  
touched the lives of so many people. A  
friend said, "She lived her 70 years in  
10 months." Memorials may be sent to:

Jim and Sandy Witte  
Callender, IA 50523

Andrea's death demonstrates the  
desperate need for us to become organ  
donors--life needs to be passed on!  
To become an organ donor in North Dakota:  
complete a form at the Driver's License  
Testing Station.  
In Minnesota: when you renew your driver's  
license, specify "donor" and complete the  
necessary form.

MN Eye Bank: 612-373-4334  
University of Minnesota: 612-376-1906 (to  
donate all organs)

April 21-27 will be National Organ Donor Week

Member Peter Nygaard gave a fine per-  
formance of Handel's Concerto in F Major  
(Opus 4, No. 5) on the 49-rank Austin at  
First Lutheran Church, Fargo, with the  
Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Chamber Orchestra  
on Sunday, February 10. Also on the  
program were Bach's Suite No. 4 in D  
Major and the Cantata No. 80--"Ein'  
feste Burg."

BAROQUE BIRTHDAYS in February/March

- Arcangelo Corelli, Feb. 17, 1653
- George Frideric Handel, Feb. 23, 1685  
(Tercentenary)
- Georg Telemann, Mar. 14, 1681
- J. S. Bach, Mar. 21, 1685  
(Tercentenary)

SAMPLE ORGANIST CONTRACT

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Effective on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) and until the termination of this agreement as hereinafter provided, \_\_\_\_\_ shall act as Organist of \_\_\_\_\_ (church), \_\_\_\_\_, (city), \_\_\_\_\_, (state), at a salary of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ (year, service, or event), payable at the end of each month.
  2. In planning and giving leadership to the overall music program, the Organist shall work in close collaboration with the Pastor, the Director of Music, and the Music Committee and shall receive cooperation from same. He/she shall be directly responsible to \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. The Organist shall select or approve music for all services which is appropriate and of worthy quality. He/she shall perform this literature to the best of his/her ability. When appropriate, and in consultation with the Pastor and the Director of Music, he/she may engage guest musicians, who will be paid an equitable fee by the church. Expenditures in this area shall not exceed the amount provided in the budget. The current budget for guest musicians is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. The Organist shall be responsible for organ music at all regularly and specially scheduled worship services, including at least \_\_\_\_\_ service(s) per Sunday (per week in Summer), midweek services during Advent and Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services during Holy Week, and special services on Festival Days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Easter.
  5. The Organist shall serve as accompanist for all weekly rehearsals of the choir(s), along with any special rehearsals and performances as called by the director(s) of said choir(s).
  6. The Organist shall have sole right to play for Weddings and Funerals and to be paid by the wedding party or the family the customary fees, which are as follows:
    - (a) For 15-20 minutes of organ music preceding the wedding, the fee shall be \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) For attendance at the wedding rehearsal, the fee shall be \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (c) For funerals, the fee shall be \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Additional financial arrangements should be made for special music or if attendance at extra meetings or rehearsals is required. The wedding fees shall be paid at the time of the wedding rehearsal. The Organist should suggest worthy and appropriate music to the couple for their guidance. Such suggestions should conform to high musical standards.
- In the event that the organist is unable to play for a wedding or a funeral, he/she shall procure a competent substitute. However, no other organist shall play for weddings or funerals except by arrangement with the Organist, and, should a guest organist play for a wedding or funeral, the incumbent should receive his/her usual fee.
7. The Organist shall have the use of office equipment, stationery, secretarial service, etc., to expedite the work of the congregational music program. He/she shall be provided with adequate work and storage space.

8. The Organist has the right to give private instruction on the church premises using the pianos and the church organ, provided that such instruction shall not interfere with normal church activities. Times of lessons and use of facilities must be scheduled in advance through the church office so as not to conflict with church program needs. Students of the Organist who are members of the congregation shall not be charged for use of the organ for practice. All others shall pay \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week to the church for the use of the instrument. Use of the organ for private practice by students should be scheduled through the church office.
9. As a member of the Music Committee, the Organist shall attend meetings of the committee. He/she shall offer advice and assistance to the committee in its overall concern for the worship life of the congregation and shall at the same time consider suggestions and recommendations made by the committee.
10. The Organist shall submit to the church office titles of music to be played and other desired information (concerning the music, guest musicians, etc.) for inclusion in the service bulletin no later than \_\_\_\_\_ each week. The selection of hymns, service details, and anthems shall be given to the organist in sufficient time (at least one month in advance) to permit effective planning.
11. In consultation with the Organist, the congregation shall provide for regular competent tuning and maintenance of the organ(s), piano(s), and other instruments. The Organist shall report to the Music Committee concerning the condition and needs for repairs of instruments used in the music program. The use of these instruments shall not be granted to others without the consent of the Organist.
12. The Organist shall be granted a vacation (with full salary) of \_\_\_\_\_ weeks annually. He/she shall select and arrange for a qualified substitute organist, who shall be paid by the church.
13. The Organist shall provide and pay a competent substitute to carry out his duties should he be absent upon occasions other than his/her vacation--except in the case of illness, in which case the church shall bear the expense of the substitute for a period of not exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ consecutive weeks. Should such incapacity exceed that period, the agreement shall at the option of either party be deemed terminated by mutual consent.
14. The church shall provide the following benefits: group health insurance, major medical insurance, pension plan, life insurance, disability insurance, unemployment insurance, and Social Security.
15. The Organist shall receive a minimum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ annually for professional growth (music, music supplies, music conferences, conventions, and workshops).
16. This contract shall be reviewed annually by both parties, prior to the anniversary of its original signing. The Organist's salary shall be reviewed annually at the time of the preparation of the church budget, in order to consider an adjustment due to cost of living, merit, longevity, and/or proper reflection of further educational credentials or additional duties on the part of the Organist.
17. This agreement may be terminated by either party, provided written notice is given \_\_\_\_\_ months prior to the date of termination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Organist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Church Representative

## ABENDMUSIK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

The Red River Boy Choir will be featured on the next Abendmusik program at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. The group, under the direction of vocal music educator, Glenys Wignes, performs many styles of music, from classical to Broadway. A free will offering will be taken to help defray the expenses of the Abendmusik series.

## VOICE RECITAL RESCHEDULED

Gay Mohr has postponed her Faculty Voice Recital until 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 Purcell, Mahler and Rossini.

## FEBRUARY PIPEDREAMS ON KCCM (91.1 FM)

Sunday, February 3, 1985, 9:30 p.m.

Organ Plus: a program of music for organ and diverse wind instruments.

Sunday, February 10, 1985, 9:30 p.m.

From the Cathedral: performances recorded at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis; James Melby, organist.

Sunday, February 17, 1985, 9:30 p.m.

Handel with Care: a selective survey of the unique contributions to the organists' repertoire by the man who invented the organ concerto.

Sunday, February 24, 1985, 9:30 p.m.

Special Concert: recorded during the 1984 National Convention of the AGO at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco.

## CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

One of the last tasks I did as chairperson of the Christmas Oratorio project was writing the final report to the West Central Regional Arts Council. It was gratifying to report that we had participation from many church choirs, a capacity audience, and the offering exceeded our expected income. The enthusiastic response from both the performers and audience was reflected in a letter from Dr. John Holten which appeared in the January 18 issue of THE FORUM. So many people participated in this project that I cannot name them for fear of missing someone. Nevertheless, sincere thanks to soloists, chorus members, directors, rehearsal and performance accompanists, typists, set-up and take-down crews, ushers, photographers, publicity people, people who prepared the bulk mailings, members of the program committee and board, and members of the audience.

Jack Close

## Vehicle is needed in F-M area for oratorios by local musicians

We were privileged to perform Bach's Christmas Oratorio at Nativity Dec. 6. I am sure the performers enjoyed doing the work and apparently the standing-room-only audience appreciated the performance.

This musically sophisticated community has not been able to perform community-wide oratorios on a regular basis in the past. An oratorio society survived several years, the opera company performed several requiems and several local colleges and universities have done an occasional work.

Maybe the organ guild with its association with local church choirs will be the vehicle to put on these works. Let's hope so. There are a lot of good musicians in these communities that would appreciate the opportunity of doing an oratorio regularly.

John R. Holten  
Moorhead

Editor's Note: Committees may wish to submit annual reports in future editions of the Newsletter. The deadlines will March 1, April 1, and May 1.

Also, a contract, assembled and published by the 1982-83 Professional Concerns Committee, is enclosed for your information. This was meant to be a guide for our membership as we establish more professional relationships with our churches. Though devised for organists, much of it would be useful for other church musicians, as well. You may find it helpful as you make your plans for 1985-86.