



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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February 2007

Needed ~ Program Committee Members!

It is time to set the programs for the RRV-AGO 2007-2008 season. For the past few years, the board has been serving as the program committee. The board is requesting members to volunteer to start up a program committee separate from the executive board. Immediate duties are determining what programs or workshops will be offered for the coming season, setting program dates, determining locations, and making the arrangements for those pro-

grams. Our big program, Paul Jacob's Recital, is already set for September 16, but there are still many preparations to be made. Your help is needed! If you feel you are unable to serve on the program committee, we still need your ideas! Please submit any program ideas to rrvago@hotmail.com.

Take Note! Whenever possible, please send article contributions *electronically* (in Word preferably) to rrvago@hotmail.com or mail a CD to Red River Valley Chapter, PO Box 2223, Fargo, ND 58108-2223, Attn: Pipeline. Thanks!

Message From the Dean

Friends,

So many things to do! We need help! For the past few years, the board has been conducting the Executive Board activities, plus acting as the Program Committee, the Nominating Committee, and other



assorted duties. It is time to establish these committees again, to better serve our members, you.

It is time for the Program Committee to determine the programs for the 2007-2008 season. Will you help with this?

It is time for the Nominating Committee to nominate board members for the 2007-2008 season, our standing rules require the nominations to be published in the March newsletter, elections take place in April, and installation of officers at our meeting in May. The term of office begins July 1. Board Members-at-Large whose terms are expiring are Brad Steen and Dawn Papenfuss. Members-at-Large are elected for 3 year terms, so those elected this year would serve until 2010. According to our Standing Rules, Mem-

bers-at-Large are expected to be in attendance at all Executive Committee meetings and to be a part of the decision-making process and implementation of those decisions. Also, Lance Johnson has stated that he will be resigning from the board at the end of the term, June 30, 2007, so there is need of a Treasurer. All Executive Committee Officers are elected annually, with a term limit of two consecutive years. Current officers up for second year reelection: Dean Vicky Wms Sieben, Subdean Robyn Vinje, and Secretary Ruth Discher. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, or on the Board, please contact any board member, or respond to rrvago@hotmail.com.

I must assume that you joined the RRV-AGO to support the activities provided by the organization. If we all contribute a little, we can all gain a lot!

Now is the time to step forward and choose which part you wish to make your own. Together we can make this a great year for the RRV-AGO! The programs and activities cannot happen without you!

~Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

Organist Guild Lunch Club

- ~First Friday of the month at Noon
- ~Fargo downtown Fryin' Pan Restaurant
- ~Everyone is welcome!

Chapter Officers

Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben
 Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
 Secretary: Ruth Discher
 Treasurer: Lance Johnson

Board Members at Large

2007: Brad Steen, Dawn Papenfuss
 2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon
 2009: Ruth Strawn, Alpha Roeszler

Letters to the Editor

First Update on Contemporary Worship

Because of the nature of our business and being acquainted with so many organists, I have been a lightning rod for those struggling to hold onto their positions. One organist has been to our shop five times in the past three years. Their stories of how they are being forced out of their organists jobs is heart-breaking. I will assume for now that those who thought I was too harsh have never had their positions threatened by those who promote alternative worship. In many cases, these people are actively forcing out organ music which they say is no longer relevant.

This past June, the Concordia organ camp for young organists had to be canceled because of low registrations. In talking with Peter Nygaard, Concordia instructor in organ, he says that the situation is "Dreadful" as more and more young people are being denied worshipping with organ and hymns. As churches continue to have only alternative services, their members have no choice but to worship in this style or transfer their membership. This service also brings in many young people but the outflow is such that membership can increase with new member who hold the organ in disdain.

In October, I attended the national convention of the American Institute of Organ builders in Seattle, WA. Much of the discussion was what to do about contemporary service both in respect to both electronic and pipe. The spread of the alternative worship movement had taken Europe and England by storm. Some organ companies are facing bankruptcy from a sharp downturn in sales.

P&S Supply in England, a supplier of pipe organ parts is on the verge of closing. Only ten years ago, they were in a healthy condition expanding their line. Dr. Robert Ebert, chairman of the Economics Department of Baldwin-Wallace College told the assembled organ builders that the future is grim with the number of organ ranks of pipes produced in the US declining. Here is what Hans-Erich Laukhuff, CEO of Aug. Laukhuff in Germany has to say.

"Another reason for decreased demand for organs is what we call 'Lifestyle churches' and the decreasing flock of faithful churchgoers who support traditional organ music, and who also ensure that their preference is reflected in church budgets. Classical music, especially organ music, holds little meaning too much of the younger generation who haven't been introduced to it. Could this portend the end of centuries old traditions? Gone are the days of excellent German education with curriculum that includes a wide range of musical and well rounded subjects. For these same reasons, high quality piano makers are experiencing falling demand. One is forced to wonder if the musical instrument making is becoming a sunset industry."

In the next *Pipeline* I will list examples of churches who have demonstrated how they are now treating organs and organists in the FM area which the expressed purpose of shutting down organs.

~Lance Johnson

Clambey Receives Grant

Susan Clambey has just been awarded a Career Development Grant through the Lake Region Arts Council, funded through the McKnight Foundation.

Her project proposal is to compose a musical work for the Lake Agassiz Concert Band. The timeline of the grant allows a year for the completion of the composition.

Clambey will be conferring with Dr. John Tesch, music department at MSUM, who is the director of the LACB. She also will confer with Dr. David Eyler, percussion specialist, and Dr. Daniel Breedon, composer, both of Concordia College.

Performance of the composition will be scheduled following completion of the project, probably spring 2008.

Organ Recital

Gaylord Skulhus Fagerland

Sunday, February 18, 2007 ~ 2:30 PM

First Congregational UCC, Moorhead, MN

Organ Recital

Peter Rogahn

Sunday, February 11, 2007 ~ 4:00 PM

American Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Milbank, SD

A free-will offering will be received.

Home Concert

Concordia College Band

Sunday, February 11, 2007 ~ 4:00 PM

Memorial Auditorium on the Concordia campus

The concert is open to the public free of charge.

Board Meeting Notes

January 18, 2007: The meeting of the RRV AGO was called to order by Dean Victoria Wms Sieben. Those present were: Ruth Discher, Lance Johnson, Alpha Roeszler, Victoria Sieben, Ruth Strawn, Robyn Vinje.

Ruth S. moved to approve the Minutes from the November 16, 2006 Board meeting. Robyn seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved as written.

Lance presented the Treasurer's report for the 2nd Fiscal Quarter of 2006 (October 1-December 31). Income for the quarter was \$1,132.57: membership dues - \$219.00, Carol Sing-A-Long free will offering - \$818.37, Pipeline ads - \$95.00. Expenses for the quarter totaled \$1,034.58: LAAC dues - \$80.00, National dues - \$75.50, contribution to Emergency Food Pantry - \$818.37, miscellaneous (postage, printing supplies, etc.) - \$60.71. The checkbook balance is \$852.84. The amounts of \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00 remain invested in the money market account and 11-month CD respectively, bringing the chapter's total net worth to \$8,852.84. Lance will report the interest earned to date on the money market account and the 11-month CD at the February board meeting.

Application forms for grants from the FM Area Foundation, Alex Stern Family Foundation and the Lake Regions Arts Council have been completed and submitted. Responses should be received in March 2007. Each request was for \$2500.00.

Lance is formulating a job description for the position of Treasurer and will work with his successor to gain a clear understanding of the duties of the Treasurer, including the procedure for filling out forms for grants.

Robyn presented a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ruth S. seconded the motion and the report was approved.

Old Business

1. Paul Jacob's Recital - Concentrated planning begins again for this event in February 2007.

2. 2006-2007 Programs - Susan Clambey provided posters for distribution for the February 11, 2007 Wedding Music Program, to be held at Grace United Methodist in Moorhead at 4pm. Darcy Boltema has been confirmed for participation in the program. Carolyn Hensrud will do more advertising - we are striving for great attendance. A budget for the program has not yet been submitted for approval. Vicky will contact Sally Harmon regarding plans for the Piano/Organ Duet Program and check on the possibility of having the March 25, 2007 program at Bethesda Lutheran.

3. List of Churches/Contacts - Discussion on the Each One Reach One campaign centered on continuing to pursue the list of potential contacts. Lance and Robyn asked to choose people/churches to contact from the list that were familiar to them or convenient to their area. The remainder of the list will be divided among other Board members. A one-to-one contact was encouraged. Lance has several copies of a brochure from National that might be used to introduce prospective members to the AGO, if the brochure is applicable to our local chapter goals.

4. Salary Guide Survey Response - We have received 19 responses. The survey shows a broad range of salaries throughout our area. A summary of the survey will be placed in the next Pipeline issue.

5. Recorded Music Committee - Robyn presented a plan and goals for the formulation of an Electronic Music Ad Hoc Committee. Membership on the committee would consist of various area organists, church musicians, music instructors, clergy and/or others. The purpose of the committee would be to research the use of and policies regarding the use of electronic music in church services.

New Business

1. Program Committee Appointments - Suggestions for members of the Program Committee to plan for the 2007-2008 season were presented by the Board. Vicky will contact prospects.

2. Region VI AGO Convention - The Region VI Convention will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska in June 2007. Information for our chapter to advertise in the convention brochure was discussed. The deadline for submitting an ad is February 15th. Lance moved that we submit a 1/4-page ad for the brochure at a cost of \$165. The motion was seconded by Robyn and carried by the Board.

3. Student Recitals - Vicky drew our attention to some upcoming Concordia student recitals: Peter Rogahn will be presenting his senior recital on April 1, 2007 at Trinity-Moorhead at 4PM. Mark Sell will be presenting his sophomore recital on March 30, 2007 at Trinity-Moorhead at 7PM.

Robyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Ruth S. seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Discher, Secretary

David Salmen Dedicatory Concert
Organist and Organ Builder
Saturday, February 10, 2007 ~ 3:30 PM
American Lutheran Church, Huron, SD

Pipeline Profile

Ruth Strawn, Board Member

I was born in a 14-bed hospital in Kadoka, SD on May 12, 1964. I was the third child and the only girl in my family. My dad was a Missouri Synod pastor serving a dual parish in Kadoka and Midland, SD.



While I was still a baby we moved to Scribner, NE, so my dad could serve another dual parish. We lived in the country—a little white parsonage next to a little white church. My mom played the organ quite often. We kids had to sit in the balcony with various

members keeping track of us during church. My mom taught piano to a few of our members' kids.

We had an old mahogany piano that my parents bought for \$25 and restored. We also had an old pump organ that my parents electrified. My brothers enjoyed playing a song on the organ they called, "Frankenstein Meets Mary Poppins." They would start on the low notes with the left hand and move up the keyboard. Then they'd start on the high notes with the right hand and "crash" in the middle.

When I was four-and-a-half, we moved to Gering, NE.

My mom taught me the basics of piano in first and second grade. I never really took formal lessons as a child, but I loved to try to teach myself to play various songs, and my parents gave me a great appreciation for classical music—especially the great chorales of the church.

When I was 12, we moved to Loveland, CO. In the fifth grade, I had started playing clarinet in band. I would go on to play through junior high, high school and for one year in college. Our high school band got to march in the Sun Bowl Parade in El Paso, TX on Thanksgiving of my senior year.

During high school, I sang in choir in school and in Youth Choir at church. I occasionally played the glockenspiel with our grade school choir at church, and once in a while I got volunteered to play one finger on the piano to accompany the opening of Sunday School.

I enrolled in Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN, in the fall of 1982, majoring in Nursing. While there, I was a member of Collegium Musicum—a madrigal choir—for one year. We put on a Madrigal Dinner during December—a traditional English Christmas meal, complete with medieval costumes and carols. It was great fun. I graduated from Valpo in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. (I went back for Homecoming this fall

and had the opportunity to play the Schlicker organ at the Chapel of the Resurrection.)

I began work as a nurse in Greeley, CO in the fall of 1986. I started taking piano lessons in the spring of 1988. I took them until the spring of 1990, when I decided to move to the Fargo area and take a job at Dakota Medical Center in the ICU. My brother—an LC-MS pastor—was serving the dual parish of Ada and Mahanomen, MN at the time. I lived in Hendrum, MN—half way between Fargo and Ada—for two years. I moved to West Fargo in 1992. The piano kind of disappeared out of my life at this time.

In the spring of 1996, we were starting a new congregation of the WELS—I had joined the WELS when I moved to West Fargo—and we needed an organist. The church only had a keyboard at the time, and I hadn't touched a keyboard instrument in six years, but I got the idea that maybe I could play for services if I really worked at it. At the time, I could play the right hand, but the left hand was a real challenge.

The pastor in Moorhead gave me a hymnal, and his wife loaned me her keyboard, and I began to practice like mad. I had never played liturgy before, and I could only play one or two hymns. My mom got me some "easy" prelude music. Everything back then was difficult for me. It took hours of practice to prepare for each service. I never went on vacation without my music. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to play if I didn't practice every day. In the fall of 2000, I started working in the Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) at Innovis Health. I was one of the first employees. I never knew how hard it was to start a hospital, but that's another story.

In the spring of 2001, our church finally got an organ—an Allen with two manuals and pedal. I tried to teach myself to play pedal, but it was very frustrating. One of our members knows Michael Olson and suggested I take lessons. I started lessons with Michael in the summer of 2003. I'm now playing pedal with all the hymns and liturgy. I've done several recitals at First Lutheran in Fargo and I got up the courage to play for the AGO Carol Sing-A-Long this year.

I've come a long way. I can't believe the richness being able to play organ music has added to my life. God is indeed good. One never knows what opportunities to serve that He has in store.

—Ruth Strawn

NOTE: The "Pipeline Profile" has been created so members can get to know more about each other. We encourage everyone to write their own profile and send it along with a picture of yourself (.jpg or .bmp format) to us at rvago@hotmail.com. We may need to edit content if necessary and will feature a member in each edition (space permitting). We look forward to meeting each of you!

Organist Salary Survey Summary

In October 2006 the RRV-AGO Board sent a copy of the area-adjusted *Current Organist Salary Guidelines* (based on suggested figures and methods of calculation presented by the National AGO) to each chapter member asking for participation in an anonymous survey to realize a fair representation of actual salaries for organists in our area that the Board could use as a tool to formulate realistic goals for professional compensation.

We received 19 responses to the survey. The majority of responses were from organists with 20 or more years of experience and represented a very broad compensation range. Thank you to the members for their participation in the survey and their consideration of the survey's goals. The survey provided information useful in the Board's on-going discussion of this topic.

RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER AGO ORGANIST SALARY SURVEY SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2006						20+ Yrs Survey Average
Current Guidelines						
Category A - One Service						
1-4 Yrs	5-12 Yrs	Survey	13-20 Yrs	20+ Yrs	Survey	
Basic Organist	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$33.00	\$43.00
AGO Certificate	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$60.00	
Bachelor's Degree	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$42.00	\$79.00
Master's Degree	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$92.00	
Category B - Two Services (adds one hour)						
1-4 Yrs	5-12 Yrs	Survey	13-20 Yrs	20+ Yrs	Survey	
Basic Organist	\$75.00	\$112.50	\$112.50	\$131.25	\$65.00	\$65.00
AGO Certificate	\$112.50	\$131.25	\$131.25	\$150.00		
Bachelor's Degree	\$131.25	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$168.75	\$85.00	\$92.50
Master's Degree	\$150.00	\$168.75	\$168.75	\$187.50	\$100.00	
Category C - One Service Plus Accompany Choir (adds 2+ hours)						
1-4 Yrs	5-12 Yrs	Survey	13-20 Yrs	20+ Yrs	Survey	
Basic Organist	\$50.00	\$55.00	\$135.00	\$157.50	\$105.00	\$122.00
AGO Certificate	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$157.50	\$180.00	154	
Bachelor's Degree	\$60.00	\$65.00	\$180.00	\$202.50		
Master's Degree	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$202.50	\$225.00	\$270.00	\$270.00
Category D - Two Services plus Accompany Choir						
1-4 Yrs	5-12 Yrs	Survey	13-20 Yrs	20+ Yrs	Survey	
Basic Organist	\$105.00	\$131.25	\$157.50	\$183.75		
AGO Certificate	\$131.25	\$157.50	\$183.75	\$210.00		
Bachelor's Degree	\$157.50	\$183.75	\$210.00	\$236.25	\$35.00	\$92.50
Master's Degree	\$183.75	\$210.00	\$236.25	\$262.50	\$150.00	\$200.00
Organist's Base Hourly Wage						
1-4 Yrs	5-12 Yrs	Survey	13-20 Yrs	20+ Yrs	Survey	
Basic Organist	\$15.00	\$18.75	\$22.50	\$26.25	\$18.75-22.50	\$20.63
AGO Certificate	\$18.75	\$22.50	\$26.25	\$30.00		
Bachelor's Degree	\$22.50	\$26.25	\$30.00	\$33.75	\$10.50-31.25	\$22.72
Master's Degree	\$26.25	\$30.00	\$33.75	\$37.50		

Definitions:

Service = Sunday Morning Worship, Wedding or Funeral
These guidelines allow for 4 hours per service to include choosing music, practice, and the actual service itself.

Basic Organist = No music degree or Service Playing Certificate
Certificate = AGO Service Playing Certificate
Bachelor's Degree = Major in Organ
Master's Degree = Major in Organ

If you are interested in getting the *Pipeline* delivered right to your email box, please send a message to rrvago@hotmail.com and include the email address that the newsletter should be sent to. For those without email, we will send a printed copy. Please send your information to the address at the end of the newsletter. We encourage feedback as well as submission of articles for publication. Please send your articles by the 20th of each month to rrvago@hotmail.com. We reserve the right to accept, reject, edit or modify any submission.

Joseph Ripka to Play at First Lutheran

Minnesota native Joseph Ripka's interest in Pipedreams, a program on Minnesota Public Radio, led to his discovery of the noontime recitals at First Lutheran Church in Fargo. He contacted organist Michael Olson and will now be sharing his talents on Wednesday, February 21 (Ash Wednesday) at 12:45PM.

Joseph Ripka received his Master of Music degrees from the University of Kansas in piano and organ performance and his Bachelor of Music degrees in piano and organ performance from Saint Cloud State University. He is currently a private student of James David Christie and his previous teachers include James Higdon, Jack Winerock, Charles Echols, Carmen Wilhite, Yakov Gelfand and Karel Paukert.

Joseph has also had the opportunity to perform for world class organists including Olivier Latry and Marie-Claire Alain. Jo-

seph won 1st place in the 2004 Minnesota Music Teachers Association College Young Artist Piano Competition, was a quarter-finalist in the 3rd International Organ Competition of Erfurt, Germany, semi-finalist in the 2006 Prague Spring International Organ Competition, and is a finalist in the 2006 Nijmegen International Organ Competition. He was previously the organist/choirmaster at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri, and is currently an adjunct instructor of piano at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Collegeville, MN.

Joseph will repeat this program when he auditions at Oberlin College on March 1. Be sure to take time out of your day to enjoy this special recital.

Organ Recital

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 ~ 12:45 PM
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Program:

Fantasia und Fuge g-moll, BWV 542
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Cinq versets sur le Victimae Paschali
Thierry Escaich

I. Allegro moderato molto ritmico
(b. 1965)

II. Adagio ma non troppo – Tempo rubato
IV. Allegro molto ritmico

Vater unser im Himmelreich
Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

Symphony No 5 Opus 47
Louis Vierne Final
(1870-1937)

AGO Region VI Convention

Region VI AGO Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 18-21, 2007. "Winds on the Prairie" will be four days of world-famous organists, interesting clinicians and workshop leaders, two beautiful cities to see, and, most important, world-famous organists playing the newest organs in Lincoln and Omaha.

These organists include: Paul Jacobs, James David Christie, Victoria R. Sirota, Samuel Gaskin, 14-year-old organ prodigy from Beaumont, Texas, Jeffrey Blerch, David Spicer, Marie Rubis Bauer, Jonas Nordwall, and Brett Valiant. Check out our website at www.agoilncoln.org.

Playing for a Wedding? Need Musical Ideas?

Come to the Wedding Music Program on Sunday, February 11, 2007, 4:00 PM at Grace United Methodist Church, 1120 - 17th St. So., Moorhead, MN.

Presenting selections for processions, recessions, special music. Featuring music for organ, piano, keyboard, voice, and violin. Performing musicians include: Darci Bultema, Susan Clambey, Kay Forkner, Mark Forkner, Anna Goodin Hayes, Lindsay Huwe, Norma Halverson, and Judith Sanders.

Upcoming Conference

We invite you to attend the Lilly Fellows Regional conference, "Singing God's Song Faithfully: Implications for Music and Theology Faculty Seeking to Prepare Music Leadership for the Church." The conference will be held at the University of Notre Dame, April 12-14, 2007. A registration fee of \$125 will provide materials and food costs during the conference.

The conference is intended for church musicians, music and theology faculty, and other persons interested in/responsible for planning and implementing worship services.

Information about the conference can be found at:
www.lillyfellows.org/regional_conferences.htm

We look forward to stimulating conversation about how the worship life of the church can be enriched through song.

~Dr. Charlotte Kroeker, Conference Director

~Dr. Craig Cramer, Professor of Music, University of Notre Dame

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Upcoming Events

September 17, 2006, 4:00 PM

Membership Meeting and Music Exchange
Messiah Lutheran, Fargo

October 15, 2006, 4:00 PM

Funeral Music Program
St. John Lutheran, Fargo

December 3, 2006, 7:00 PM

Christmas Hymn Sing
Peace Lutheran, Fargo

February 11, 2007, 4:00 PM

Wedding Music Program
Grace United Methodist, Moorhead

March 25, 2007, 4:00 PM

Piano/Organ Duet Program
First Presbyterian, Fargo

May 6, 2007, 4:00 PM

Membership Potluck
Vicky Wms Sieben Home, Moorhead



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