



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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Message From the Dean

What do you do to feed your own soul during the hectic holiday season?

Most of us who are church musicians, whether part time or full time, find our schedule getting squeezed from all sides as November progresses and December approaches. Penciling in yet another performance, lunch meeting, rehearsal or, heaven forbid, a dentist appointment or something similar becomes stressful. My car will have to wait for that oil change! I find myself worrying that I will forget to be somewhere that I have promised to be, or arriving to a "gig" without my reading glasses or the proper organ shoes!

I hope I have learned to schedule some down time to attend a program that I did not have to plan, or in which I have no responsibilities! I long to sit back in semi-darkness and let the music wash over me and enjoy someone else's hard work and preparation. Oh, to have no worries that I will flub a page turn, forget what key we are in or miss a cue! I need to relax and let the music nourish my

inner soul because it won't be long before I will need that energy to be available to me again.

The Fargo-Moorhead area has many options available to choose from as the holidays draw near. I read the list of suggested events in the Forum and realize there are a lot of gifted and talented people in our area who are just as busy as I, and there are multiple programs to consider that will fill my need to experience art and music.

Our own AGO chapter provides one such option: The Christmas Carol Sing to be held on December 9th at First Lutheran Church in Fargo. Please come. Participate and let your souls be fed by the music. Join in singing. Listen to others sing. Relax. Rejoice. Rejuvenate. Remember why you love this season. Be restored.

I hope to see you soon!

Sally Harmon, Dean RRVAGO

songsally@aol.com

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: Sally Harmon

Sub-Dean: Sonia Carlson

Secretary: James Mackay

Treasurer: Tom Thoreson

Board Members at Large

2013: Alpha Roeszler

2014: Bill Tweten

2015: Jim Gurney

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting November 1, 2013

The RRV-AGO Board meeting scheduled for November 1st did not have enough members present to conduct business. However, we did have a discussion about professional concerns, as we have been going through an outline from a workshop that was part of the Region VI Convention.

The subject of the workshop was Professional Concerns. AGO chapters are the primary professional contact for local organists, as well as the way that future organists hear about the organ. But like any organization, chapters sometimes go through growing pains and have problems. The workshop was presented to facilitate discussion about promoting organ music to the public.

The topic we discussed in October was Identifying The Target Audience. The November topic for discussion was Identifying Needs And Abilities.

In future months we will talk about Identifying Problems and Implementing Repairs, as well as Creating Possibilities.

It has been interesting to talk about some of the options for reaching future organists such as Twitter, Facebook, websites and word-of-mouth. We welcome other organist friends to join us at the First Friday lunches to participate in these discussions! We learn a lot from each other every month.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Harmon, Dean

14th Annual Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

Monday, December 9, 2013

7:00 PM

First Lutheran Church, Fargo
619 Broadway

The *Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists* cordially invites you to join them for an evening of song and inspiring readings. Area organists will perform your favorite carols, assisted by the stunning handbell choir, Bellissimo, directed by Jill Post.

Kathy Ferreira will direct the First Lutheran Children's Choir and Flutist Liz Lyngstad will also participate.

Monetary donations will be received to the Fargo Moorhead Emergency Food Pantry.

Spend a delightful evening with us in song and merriment, a perfect prelude to your Christmas experience.

Registration Open for AGO 2014 Convention in Boston June 23-27

Great City—Wonderful Music—Inspired Learning—Compelling Instruments—Gracious Hospitality

Centered in Boston's Back Bay, within easy walking to many of their great churches, this 4-1/2 day convention will inspire and thrill with a diversity of instruments—from Meantone to Wurlitzer—played by an outstanding international roster of organists. It will feature many recently installed instruments in addition to a long list of landmark organs.

Not only great organs will be featured, but outstanding choral concerts, many commissioned works, a diverse array of worship opportunities, and stimulating workshops.

The convention is created for you to be comfortably paced. Celebrate your choices.

Registration before January 31, 2014 is encouraged to take advantage of discounted rates. Register online now at regonline.com/agoboston2014 to ensure your choices. Registration by paper is available using the form in the October issue of The American Organist.

The Marriott Copley Place is the convention headquarters hotel. You may register for hotel reservations through the Marriott's online system at <https://aws.passkey.com/reg/326GFM29-G682>, or by calling the hotel directly at 800-228-9290. Ask for the AGO 2014 Convention rate of \$195/night when calling.

If you have any questions, please contact the Steering Committee at info@agoboston2014.org. They will respond quickly to your inquiries.

New England beckons you to join them for an inspirational week.

Season's Greetings from AGO National Headquarters

Season's Greetings! There is no busier season for organists and choral conductors than the one we are in. Our members are keeping the music alive and vibrant in houses of worship, recital and concert halls, and in academic communities from coast to coast.

This holiday season, we are hopeful you will help us help others by making a contribution to the AGO Annual Fund. Your tax-deductible contribution will enable us to provide support for:

- * Educational programs like Pipe Organ Encounters, January Jubilees, and Regional and National Conventions,
- * Musicians at all levels of experience who are working to improve their skills through our professional certification program in sacred music, and,
- * New technology including a customized website, educational videos on the Guild's new Youtube channel, online job postings and career services, and a new membership database that provides up-to-date directory information and online dues renewals for all members.

How do I make my contribution, you might ask:

- * Contribute online using a credit card,
- * Print our online contribution form and return it with your check, or,
- * Call 212-870-2311, ext. 4308, to make a gift of securities.

Every gift is important—no gift is too small. Honor a teacher, student, or friend with a contribution to the AGO (we will send them a letter advising them of your gift) or remember a loved one with a memorial gift.

Contributions to the AGO are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

First-time contributions to the Annual Fund make the Guild stronger because they help us demonstrate to foundations and other funding sources that a growing number of individuals believe in the work that we do. If you are among the ranks of those who have already made a contribution to the AGO this year—Thank you! If you have not, please take a moment make your tax-deductible contribution by December 31.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy holiday season and a healthy and musical New Year!

Eileen Guenther, President

P.S. If you are unable to make a gift at this time, please consider making a deferred gift through our Clarence Dickinson Society for Planned Giving, or demonstrate your support for the AGO by becoming a Lifetime Member.

You can also enjoy tax savings through our Vehicle Donation program. For further information, please contact AGO Director of Development and Communications F. Anthony Thurman at 212-870-2311, ext. 4308.

Season's Greetings from the Organ Historical Society (OHS)

At the OHS, every day brings an opportunity to discover how music transcends the ordinary, stirring in us something deep and powerful and often surprising.

This past year, the pipe organ filled our lives when we heard marvelous instruments played at the Vermont Convention. The organ touched many who were unable to attend the Convention through a simultaneous webcast that was seen and heard around the world! Products for organ lovers—music, CDs, DVDs and books from the OHS store also travel the world. The OHS Library and Archives figure in our own studies and publications, as well as those of a host of scholars.

At the OHS you can become part of the organ world in many ways. Contribute information to the OHS Organ Data Base, as so many do—or simply use it to delight in the amazing amount of material available to you there. Your support of all our activities makes the pipe organ accessible to people near and far.

It's all possible because of you.

Every moment, every experience with the pipe organ and its powerful communication is the result of the generosity and enthusiasm of the OHS family—members, donors, and friends like you—across the country and around the world. As millions give thanks throughout this holiday season, I would like to express my warm appreciation for your support. You make OHS a place of inspiration and discovery for so many.

With all best wishes for the holidays and a happy new year,

James Weaver

Please send donations by check to:

Organ Historical Society

P.O. Box 26811

Richmond, VA 23261

Please designate "Annual Fund" in memo section of check.

Contributions are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Announcing a John Rutter Jubilee Coming in 2014

A special celebration for all who know and love choral music is being planned for Friday, March 21, 2014 at 8 pm and Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 4 pm at Central Lutheran Church, located in downtown Minneapolis. Direct from penning an anthem for the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the dean of British choral composers will lead the VocalEssence (Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director) Chorus and Ensemble Singers in a concert of his favorites. Included on the program are John's delightfully jazzy *Birthday Madrigals* and music by his favorite British romantic composers, Charles V. Stanford, Ralph Vaughan Williams and C. Hubert H. Parry. Conductor of the world-famous Cambridge Singers, John Rutter is near and dear to VocalEssence audiences, and his compositions are some of the most beloved choral music of our time. A program not to be missed!

Concert Conversations with John Birge and John Rutter will be held prior to each performance, at 7 pm on Friday and 3 pm on Sunday.

For more information, visit www.vocalescence.org/rutter

Biographical Information:

John Milford Rutter was born in London on September 24, 1945. He was educated at Highgate School, was a choir member at Clare College, Cambridge and served as director of music there from 1975-1979, leading the choir to international prominence.

In 1974, Rutter visited the US at the invitation of choral musician Melvin Olson and conducted the premiere of his cantata "Gloria" in Omaha, NE in the Witherspoon Hall of Joslyn Art Museum.

In 1981, Rutter founded his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, which he conducts and with which he has made many recordings. He resides at Duxford in Cambridgeshire and frequently conducts many choirs and orchestras around the world. He has received numerous honors and awards in recognitions of his contribution to church music.

From 1985 to 1992, Rutter suffered severely from myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME, or chronic fatigue syndrome), which restricted his output; after 1985 he stopped writing music on commission, as he was unable to guarantee meeting deadlines.

Rutter also works as an arranger and editor. As a young man he collaborated with Sir David Willcocks on the extraordinarily successful *Carols for Choirs* anthology series.

Rutter's music is eclectic, showing the influences of the French and English choral traditions of the early 20th century, as well as of light music and American classic songwriting. Almost every choral anthem and hymn that he writes, in addition to the standard piano/organ accompaniment, has a subsequent orchestral accompaniment as well, utilizing various different instrumentations.

Despite composing and conducting much religious music, Rutter told the US television program *60 Minutes* in 2003 that he was not particularly a religious man, yet still deeply spiritual and inspired by the spirituality of sacred verses and prayers.

In a 2009 interview, Rutter discussed his understanding of "genius" and its unique ability to transform lives—whether that genius is communicated in the form of music or other media. (from Wikipedia)

Positions Available — Choir Director

First Congregational UCC, Fargo, is looking for a choir director to lead the sanctuary choir. The choir participates in Sunday morning worship services which begin at 10:30. Choir rehearsal begins prior to the service at 9:00. For more detailed information, please contact Pastor Kevin Cassidy-Maloney at (701) 232-8985 or e-mail at 1stcongregationalucc@gmail.com.

Composers Corner—Horatio Parker

Horatio Parker was among the first important American composers. While Ives would eventually eclipse him, Parker was much more prominent during his career. He also became widely known for his church music. In his works, he was conservative, writing in a European Romantic style that in later years turned even more traditional and non-progressive.

Parker was born in Auburndale, Massachusetts. He developed health problems during his youth that resulted in bouts of serious illness throughout his life. He began music studies with his mother on both piano and organ and at the age of 15 was already composing music. His first effort was the *Kate Greenaway Songs* which, while immature in their writing, divulged his considerable potential. He went to study composition in Boston with George Chadwick and concurrently served as church organist at a nearby Dedham church from 1880 to 1882. He also took instruction in music theory during this time from Stephen Emery and on piano from John Orth. He then went to Europe, a common destination for a young American composer in the 1880s. He enrolled at the Munich Academy of Music where he studied composition for three years with Josef Rheinberger; also in Munich he composed his first significant works, including his *Symphony in C* and a dramatic cantata. After his return to the United States in 1885, he was for two years professor of music in the Cathedral School of St. Paul in Garden City, Long Island. Parker served as a church musician from 1885-1893 at a succession of three major churches in New York City and taught at several, primarily religious, schools. In 1893, Parker became professor of the theory of music at Yale University and was appointed Dean of Music at that school in 1904, a position which he held for the rest of his life. In 1895 he organized the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, conducting many of the ensemble's concerts until 1918.

Among Parker's students at Yale was Charles Ives, who respected his teacher as a musician, but considered him hopelessly backward in his musical views. Still, Parker was highly regarded and his appointment as Dean of Music at Yale elevated the institution to national prominence for its composition studies.

Before leaving New York City in 1893, Parker had completed his oratorio, *Hora Novissima*. It was widely performed in America, and also in England. European critics called it one of the finest of American compositions. While he is mostly remembered for this single work, he was a prolific and versatile in a mostly conservative Germanic tradition, writing two operas, songs, organ and incidental music, and a copious quantity of works for chorus and orchestra. Influences in his compositions include Mendelssohn, Brahms, Wagner, as well as Debussy and Elgar in some works which he composed closer to 1900. During his lifetime he was considered to be the finest composer in the United States, a superior craftsman writing in the most advanced style.

In 1892, Parker composed the hymn tune "Auburndale" in celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the new church building of the Episcopal parish he was baptized in, Parish of the Messiah. His father, Charles Parker, had been the architect for that congregation's chapel. "Auburndale" was later published in the 1916 Hymnal.

He wrote little music for church services after 1904, but continued to produce larger choral works. Parker turned to opera for the first time in his career with *Mona* in 1910, which earned him a \$10,000 first prize sponsored by the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1911 and was premiered by the company in 1912. Despite initial successes, however, none of his operas or other stage works ever gained a foothold in the repertory.

Parker's lifelong precarious health worsened as the war years drew on and by 1918, he was seriously ill. He developed pneumonia on a vacation to the West Indies and died a short time later.

-From Wikipedia and Artist Biography by Robert Cummings-

Fargo Theatre Hosting Noon Organ Christmas Concerts

Free noon organ Christmas concerts on the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fargo Theatre will be offered weekdays beginning Monday, December 9 and continuing through Friday, December 20 at the Fargo Theatre, 314 Broadway, Fargo. Lance E. Johnson, who has been the house organist for the past 40 years, will perform Dec. 9, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 20. Alex Swanson will perform Tuesday, Dec. 10, and Tyler Engber will perform Dec. 16.

The theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ is the largest of its kind in the Upper Midwest and is featured each year for Silent Movie Night and noon Christmas concerts as well as weekend movie prologues.

Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

There will be no concert on Thursday, Dec. 19.

For additional information, call (701) 239-8385.

Third Annual High School Organ Festival and Competition—Winston-Salem, NC

With prizes guaranteed to be at least \$3500 and potentially over \$10,000, UNC School of the Arts, Salem College, and the Winston-Salem Chapter of the AGO are pleased to announce the Third Annual High School Organ Festival & Competition the weekend of January 24-26, 2014. The festival and competition is open to any High School Senior or younger. The competition will be held at First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem (First Baptist Church Grooms & Payne Organ), and the Festival portion will be held on the campuses of UNCSA (UNCSA Fisk, Opus 75) and Salem College (Salem College Flentrop Organ).

This year's competition application requires a CD submitted with letters of reference by December 13, 2013.

Included during the weekend in addition to the competition is a masterclass with world-renowned Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique pedagogue, Barbara Lister-Sink; an introduction to Alexander Technique; and a masterclass and individual lessons with UNCSA and Salem College organ professor, Dr. Timothy Olsen, all of which are included in the application fee.

Eight finalists will be chosen from the application pool, and will be notified by December 20, 2013.

For more information and application form, please visit <http://www.timothyolsenorganist.com/OrganCompetition.html>, or contact Professor Timothy Olsen at olsent@uncsa.edu.



Upcoming Events

Monday, December 9, 2013, 7:00 PM

"Christmas Carol Sing-Along"

First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Coming in March, 2014

"Amazing Americans"

Details TBA

Contact Information

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MUSIC SPEAKS.**



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