



# PIPELINE

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 8

APRIL 2005

**YOUNG ORGANIST'S WEEK  
CONCORDIA COLLEGE, MOORHEAD, MN  
June 12-16, 2005**

Let's make sure that we get the word out to any promising young keyboard players that this unique opportunity is available to them in our community this summer. Peter Nygaard, Judy Sanders and Michael Olson are the very able teachers available to help guide folks in the ways of the organ. For more information and a brochure contact Marcia Meyer at the Office of Church Relations at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota.

**PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER  
DENVER, COLORADO  
June 19-25, 2005**

The Denver chapter of the AGO is hosting this POE at the U of Denver. Activities include day trips to boulder and Water World and a closing student recital on the new three manual Coors organ at the University. Anyone interested is to contact Denise Lanning ([deniselanning@netscape.net](mailto:deniselanning@netscape.net)).

**PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER  
AUGUSTANA COLLEGE  
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
July 17-22, 2005**

This is another opportunity for those interested piano students to get a wonderful introduction to the pipe organ. This event will have as faculty Paul Jacobs of Julliard, James Kibbie of the University of Michigan and John Schwandt of the University of Indiana. Besides recitals by the guests, John Schwandt will accompany a silent movie and teach class lessons on improvisation. Michael Barone and Charles Hendrickson will join for a day and teach a class. A highlight of the the week will be a trip to Vermillion, SD to the world famous National Shrine to Music Museum. There students will get a chance to see and hear early keyboard instruments. The will also get a chance to play the gamelon housed in the western gallery. Besides daily lessons, many classes will be offered in organ construction, technic, and repertoire. For more information contact Dr. Larry Schou ([lschou@usd.edu](mailto:lschou@usd.edu)).

**ROB RICHARDS TO PLAY  
AT FARGO THEATRE**

Rob Richards, chief organist for the Walt Disney Co. will play a concert a the historic Fargo Theatre on April 9, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 general admission and available in advance from the theatre box office or by calling 701-239-8385.

Some AGO members will remember hearing Richards at the Fargo Theatre on a Sunday afternoon in December, 2000. At that time he was the AGO's first choice for the Region VI Convention organ concert at the theatre but was unavailable. Tom Hazelton played instead.

Richards has attained the level of a world-class theatre organist and is a dazzling and exciting artist. He plays regularly at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood across the street from the Oscar broadcasts. He plays prologues for Disney films that premeire at the El Cap. The organ is a 4 manual, 36 rank WurliTzer that was formerly installed at the famed-

(continued inside)



## Upcoming Events

### Meet with Grand Forks Chapter

April 10, 2005

**THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED!**

### Student Junior Recital

Karen Nordenstrom at Trinity Lutheran

Moorhead, MN April 22, 2005

7 p.m.

### Potluck Supper and Chapter Meeting

May 15, 2005 at 5 p.m.

Lance and Judy's, 201 NE 3rd St.

Dilworth, MN

(Richards continued)

San Francisco Fox which was razed in 1963. Rob also appeared briefly on the ABC morning program "The View."

He will also play a free concert Friday afternoon, April 8th for Grace Lutheran and Park Schools as well as for home-schooled children and will include a "trip through the organ."

The ATOS owned organ at the Theatre has undergone a major tonal and technical upgrade which according to Richards places it as a world class theatre organ. He has indicated a desire to make a CD on it. It includes the addition of a Brass Saxophone, Orchestral Oboe and Brass(less) Trumpet as well as a renewed tonal finishing.

### AGO Board Meeting

April 15th, 2005

Frying Pan restaurant at noon!

### AUSTIN ORGAN COMPANY CLOSES!!

The Austin Organ Co. of Hartford, CT has closed its doors effective March 7, 2005. President Kimberlee Austin informed all field representatives by fax citing serious cash flow problems from a customer who has not paid their bill as well as losses from some recent contracts. This marks the 4th major builder of pipe organs that has closed its doors in the past two decades, including Aeolian-Skinner, Phelps, Moeller and Schlicker.

John Austin came to the U.S. from England in 1889 and first worked for Clough and Warren of Detroit where he invented the famous Universal Chest. In 1899 he established the Austin Organ Co. and by 1910 was considered a leader in the field. The Austin Organ became well-known for its extremely reliable action which required less attention than the standard wind chest.

There are four Austins in the area; Our Savior's, Larimore, Grace Episcopal, Jamestown and Christian Science and First Lutheran, both in Fargo.

### TOUR GERMANY AND ENJOY SOUNDS OF GREAT ORGANS!

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**May 5, 2005** Andrew Unsworth, organist

Tickets available at the door, \$15 adult/\$5 Student/\$30 Family special

Season ticket \$75 Adult/\$25 Student

ORGAN RECITAL  
APRIL 10, 2005, SUNDAY  
2:00 p.m.  
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

FEATURING STEPHEN GABRIELSEN  
B.A. Augsburg College  
M.A. University of Minnesota  
Ph.D. University of Minnesota

Stephen "Gabe" Gabrielsen is a professor of music at Augsburg College where he teaches music theory and organ performance and serves as the College organist. He is also organist at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd . As a scholar of the Lutheran World Federation he studied at the Staatliche Hochschule fur Musik in Cologne, West Germany with Michael Schneider. Gabrielsen is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists and is a published composer of organ and choral music. He has performed in 28 states and several foreign countries.

In addition to his work in music, Gabe delights in telling Ole and Lena stories. He grew up in Norwegian-American communities where his father, a Norwegian immigrant, was a Lutheran pastor.

A joint dinner meeting of the RRV and Northern Valley Chapters of the AGO will be held at 4:00 p.m. We will decide on a restaurant among the members in attendance.

Hope to see you there.....Reid Froiland

RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER AGO  
ORGANIST SALARY GUIDELINES

Service= Sunday morning worship, wedding or funeral.

Period = 2005-2006

Category A - One service

	1-4 yrs.	5-12 yrs.	13-20 yrs.	Over 20
Basic Organist	60.	75.	90.	105.
AGO Certificate	75.	90.	105.	120.
Bachelor's degree	90.	105.	120.	135.
Master's degree	105.	120.	135.	150.

Category B - two services (adds one hour)

	1-4 yrs.	5-12 yrs.	13-20 yrs.	Over 20
Basic Organist	75.	93.75	112.50	131.25
AGO Certificate	93.75	112.50	131.25	150.00
Bachelor's degree	112.50	131.25	150.00	168.75
Master's degree	131.75	150.00	168.75	187.50

Category C - One service plus accompany choir (+2 hrs)

	1-4 yrs.	5-12 yrs.	13-20 yrs.	Over 20
Basic Organist	90.00	112.50	135.00	157.50
AGO Certificate	112.50	135.00	157.50	180.00
Bachelor's degree	135.00	158.50	180.00	202.50
Master's Degree	158.50	180.00	202.50	225.00

It allows for 4 hours per service to include choosing music, practice and the actual service itself.

Base hourly rate for 2005-06 is \$15.00 per hour for the basic organist who has from 1-4 years of organ playing experience. Term of guidelines extends from July 1 to June 30th each year.

Category D - two services plus  
accompany choir

	1-4 yrs.	5-12 yrs.	13-20 yrs	Over 20
Basic Organist	105.	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
Master's degree	183.75	210.00	236.25	262.50

<u>Organist' hourly wage</u>				
	1-4 yrs.	5-12 yrs.	13-20 hrs.	Over 20
Basic Organist	15.	18.75	22.50	26.25
AGO Certificate	18.75	22.50	26.25	30.00
Bachelor's degree	22.50	26.75	30.00	33.75
Master's degree	26.75	30.00	33.75	37.50

Definitions

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.



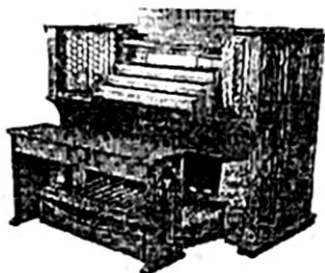
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## Explanation of AGO salary guidelines

The Professional Concerns committee, approved of the new 2005-2006 organist salary guidelines. It should be emphasized that the purpose is not to stress an hourly wage but to think in terms of a salary for time that an organists spends at his position. The four hours allowed for on the chart for organists who play one service only each Sunday begins is the basis and does not mean that all organists are required to spend at least four hours.

The basic hourly rate begins with \$15 for a basic organist with less than 4 years of experience. If you look at the last chart, it shows the hourly rate for all categories. Some may ask why a self-taught organist makes the same amount as one who has studied privately or at a college level. This may seem unfair. The reason is that there is not way to determine organ playing competence for each organist. Some can play very well while some may not play well.

The committee also had good guidelines from the AGO office as well as the Twin Cities chapter but it was felt that it did not apply closely to our FM area situation. These will not be sent to your employer. It is for the organist only but can be shown to a church as an illustration for salary. In other words, these are strictly guidelines.

Some of you will determine that you are underpaid. Others will be satisfied with what you presently make.

This guideline also applies to weddings and funerals. There are organists who are asked to play a half hour before a wedding or funeral so the total is comparable to playing a Sunday.

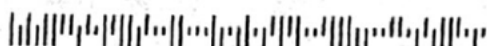
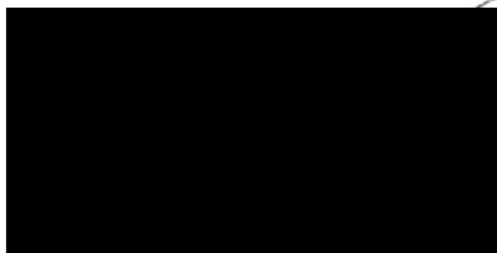
This guideline does not make allowances for accompanying a soloist. The organist should decide this for themselves. Some will come to rehearsal and find the soloist doesn't sing well or doesn't know the music.

This guideline should also point out why fewer and fewer people are bothering to spend money on lessons as they feel it is not worth it to tie up their Sundays for so little compensation.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
Red River Valley Chapter  
PO. BOX 2223  
Fargo, ND 58108-2223

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