



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 29, Number 3

Sep/Oct/Nov
2015

Message From the Dean

My family likes to work on jigsaw puzzles together. When I was growing up, we had a coffee table in our family room that always had a puzzle-in-progress. I remember feeling terrific whenever I found the particular piece everyone was trying to locate that held everything together, attaching one section to another. And I recall how frustrating it was when the pieces of a puzzle weren't interlocking! If anyone bumped the table, things shifted and repairs had to be done before you could go on.

This morning, as I was *puzzling* about what to write about for the newsletter, it came to me that our organization could use more interlocking pieces! That is, our members need to be *connected* to each other in order to make our big picture work out. I wondered about how we could make those connections happen.

There are simple things that can be done to bring us together. Invitations work better than information, as in: Inviting an organist friend to our First Friday lunches works better than simply informing them that there is a monthly lunch that they could attend. Perhaps we could each invite a colleague to our First Friday lunch next month, and if we did, it would double our attendance immediately. Think about that!

Secondly, we could improve our *connectedness* by attending our AGO programs this year. Our board members have brainstormed together and come up with some creative programming ideas

that we believe will make interesting programs. It would be wonderful to see more organists show up in the audience, or agreeing to perform, usher, help with publicity, etc. We need to help each other make our organization a success!

Our programs this season will kick off with a Halloween Day "Ominous Organ" program to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. The time is set for 3:13 pm on Saturday, October 31st, with performers and audience encouraged to wear costumes. This could be the beginning of a new tradition for our AGO group, as Halloween organ recitals are popular around the country. INVITE your friends and family to attend!

Our AGO chapter *connects* with another local music group, the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club to present our traditional Christmas Carol Sing-Along on Monday, December 7th at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo. Renamed slightly, we call it "A Christmas Ring and Sing-along" because the BELLissimo community handbell group will also participate. Again, our members are needed to participate, perform and publicize this annual event!

We will also *connect* our AGO group with the community's Shakespeare Festival in early 2016. We are discussing the details with The Arts Partnership, and the idea is starting to take off: "If Music be the Food of Love, Play On!" will be presented on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14 at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral as

part of their Celestial Sounds Series. Our hope is to have a local restaurant or caterer provide the "food of love" part of the program. Our AGO members will need to provide the "Play On!" section. The repertoire could be any music we LOVE, Love to play, or about love! We have lots of flexibility in our choices!

Another *connection* to the community, will be our spring program(s), Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, 2016. We will join forces with The Choral (continued on Page 2)

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: Bill Tweten
Secretary: Robyn Vinje
Treasurer: Jean Roberts

Board Members at Large

2015: Sonia Carlson
2016: Jim Gurney
2017: Alpha Roeszler

Message from the Dean

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Artists, directed by Michael Culleton, at First Lutheran Church, Fargo. The choral music will be accompanied by organists for this program. More details will be coming out as things develop.

Without our *interlocking* persons, it doesn't take much of a bump to put our organization into disarray with repairs needed. What can you do to *connect* with other organists and help us create our AGO big picture? Please start by putting our program dates on your calendar, and then make it a priority to INVITE others to attend.

Sally Harmon, Dean RRV-AGO

Board Meeting Notes

**Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting
July 10, 2015**

Members present were Dean Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler, and Robyn Vinje. This did not constitute a quorum.

Sally reported that she contacted the Community Arts Partnership about the Shakespeare Festival in February, and that we would like to give an organ program on Valentine's Day with the theme, "If music be the food of love, play on". So far she has not received a response.

Correction to the June Board Meeting Minutes: the Halloween program will be held at the Fargo Theater, not Trinity.

At the August Board Meeting we will be discussing the possibility of once again compiling a yearbook for AGO.

Next Board Meeting is Friday, August 7th.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Vinje, Secretary

Board Meeting Notes

**Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting
September 11, 2015**

Members present were Dean Sally Harmon, Andrew Steinberg, and Robyn Vinje. This did not constitute a quorum.

There were no minutes of an August meeting.

There was no treasurer's report, due to the absence of the treasurer.

Our first program of the year will be **Saturday, October 31st, at 3:13 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead**. It was previously planned for the Fargo Theater, but those arrangements could not be made. It will involve a Halloween theme, and Andrew will serve as chair. Andrew stated that he will be playing the Bach d minor and Jane Hellner and Sally Harmon will also be playing. Andrew will send an e-mail inviting members to also play. The program is planned to last about an hour. Members are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes.

Trinity will make the posters, and Boulger has offered to print them.

Alpha Roeszler will be asked to chair publicity for the event. Some possibilities are a press release to The Forum, TV stations, the Metro paper, mailing to churches, and Sally will contact the High Plains Reader.

The second program of the year will be the Christmas Sing-a-long on Monday, December 7th, at 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church. Sally and Jill Post will chair, and it will be a joint program with Fargo Moorhead Area Music Club. BELLissimo and The Noteables will perform, AGO organists will accompany the Christmas carols, and the chairmen will write the narrative.

The third program is tentatively set for Sunday, February 14th at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral in Fargo, at 4:00 PM. Sally has been trying to contact Dayna DelVal to have this be included as part of the arts community Shakespeare celebration. We discussed the possibility of partnering with a local food establishment to serve light refreshments. The possibility of having the Silver Winds flute quartet perform was also mentioned.

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Board Meeting Notes (cont. from Page 2)

The final program of the year will be at First Lutheran Church in Fargo on the weekend of May 7th and 8th with the FM Choral Artists. Michael Olson is working with Michael Culloton, director, on this.

The fall issue of the *Pipeline* should be coming soon. Hopefully a yearbook can be included in it.

Sally announced that Lance Johnson picked up the portative, but she isn't sure what he is planning to do with it. It was discussed at a previous meeting that it needed some work.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, Secretary

CALLING ALL ORGANISTS!!!

This Halloween (Saturday, October 31st) at 3:13 PM at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead RRVAGO will be presenting a Halloween Recital!

Andrew Steinberg is looking for people to play for this event.

Some music suggestions are: Anything spooky, especially transcriptions- this does not need to be a recital of standard repertoire pieces.

Also, this would be a good time for some organ/piano duets for those interested.

The program will be projected so people can see performers play. Costumes for both players and attendees will be encouraged.

Andrew will be playing the Bach *Tocatta and Fugue in d minor* to close the program.

Please let Andrew know soon if you are willing to play. He is looking for about 40 minutes of music right now.

Andrew can be contacted at ajsteinb@cord.edu

From the Steering Committee of The AGO 2016 National Convention “Greetings to your Chapter”

The Houston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists are excited to be hosts for what promises to be an outstanding celebration of our art.

Registration opens in October with a special low “early bird” rate for those who are able to register that soon. The main convention website is

www.AGOHouston2016.com.

The Convention Headquarters will be at The Hilton Americas-Houston located in downtown Houston. The hotel opened in 2004 and is the crown jewel of the downtown area. Accommodation and transportation details can be found on the convention website.

The Pre-convention schedule begins Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18. Regular convention activities run from Sunday, June 19, 2016 through Thursday, June 23, 2016. Links for details of any given day of the convention are found at the “Schedule Overview” section of the website.

Some areas of interest being presented are:

Worship—The *Opening Convocation* will be held at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church. Other worship services will be *Halle, Halle: We Sing the World Around*—a service of World Music at First Presbyterian Church; *Services of Choral Evensong*—Christ Church Cathedral and St. Paul’s United Methodist Church; *Season of Praise*—St. Luke’s United Methodist Church.

Workshops—Over 60 workshops will be offered over three days of the convention under these topics:

Professional/Organization Concerns

Reading Sessions—(choral and organ sessions)

Pedagogy and Rehearsal Techniques

Instruments

Repertoire and Performance Practice

Development—(“How to Create Events that Attract and Encourage Teenager Organists” and “A New Kind of Organ Concert: Audience Outreach Through Multi-media” to just name two)

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2016 National Convention (cont. from page 3)

New Music Bayoubüchlein—The New Music Committee of the American Guild of Organists 2016 convention in Houston is pleased to announce a call for scores for a special convention publication entitled The Bayoubüchlein. This is a collection of chorale preludes for solo organ, representing every season of the liturgical calendar, with each prelude based on chorale hymn tunes composed since 1960. The collection will comprise selected works from this call for scores as well as seven preludes previously commissioned by AGO Houston New Music. It is anticipated that as many as 19 works will be selected from this call for scores, for a total of 26 for publication.

Composers of any age and nationality are welcome to submit works that fit the criteria of the competition. All submissions will be evaluated for inclusion by a panel appointed by the AGO Houston New Music Committee. The decision of the panel will be final.

More details including the "Guidelines for Submitted Works" can be obtained from the convention website.

These are just a few general highlights planned for the 2016 Convention in Houston. Any convention, especially one as unique as this one, relies not only on funds from registration costs and advertisers, but also on donors at the local and nation-wide level to ensure its success. General gifts are always gratefully welcomed. For more donation information, please contact:

Daniel J. Fenn, Co-Chair,
Gifts, Grants, and Donations Committee
AGO 2016 National Convention
1302 Waugh Drive, #392
Houston, TX 77019
www.agohouston2016.com/get-involved/sponsor

Organist Opening

An organist is needed to fill a position in rural Kindred, ND. The members of Norman Lutheran Church have been 'spoiled' with beautiful organ music throughout the history of the church and would like to find someone to fill their church and hearts with organ sounds once again! They hold one service each Sunday morning, alternating times each month with their sister parish (8:30am service or 11am service). Salary is negotiable and they will pay mileage to the church, about 20 miles southwest of Fargo. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested in filling this position, please contact Jen S. at 701-371-5537 for more information and please check out their website at ndparish.blogspot.com.

Composer's Corner—Max Reger

Max Reger was an important composer whose artistic worth far surpasses his still generally meager representation on the concert stages and in recordings. He was a post-Romantic composer whose intensely chromatic and highly contrapuntal music was some of the most elaborate of any period.

Born in Brand, Bavaria in 1873, Johann Baptist Joseph Maximilian Reger was the son of a school-teacher and amateur musician who gave him instruction on the piano, organ and various string instruments. At age 11 Reger's family moved to Weiden, where he began studies with organist Adalbert Lindner. In 1888 Reger traveled to the Bayreuth Festival where he heard performances of Wagner's *Parsifal* and *Die Meistersinger*. The experience had a lasting effect on him, the harmonies and sounds of the latter opera profoundly affecting his musical psyche.

Reger was particularly attracted to the fugal form. He created music in almost every genre except for opera and the symphony. He saw himself as being part of the tradition of Beethoven and Brahms. However, coming under the early influences of the complex counterpoint of Bach and the extended harmonies of Liszt and Wagner, and adding his own unique ubiquitous counterpoint, Reger eventually fused these elements from these sources to form a style of music that was both ahead of its time and inextricably bound to the past. Even though his organ works were often cast as fantasias and fugues in Bach's manner, the style was Wagnerian in its rich harmonies and ambiguous tonality.

After an unpleasant experience in the military that affected his physical and mental health, he returned to his parents' Weiden home to recuperate. During this period, he produced his Op. 27 chorale fantasia *Ein Feste Burg* is *Unser Gott*, and his Op. 29 Fantasy & Fugue in C Minor.

From September 1901 he settled in Munich where he obtained concert offers and where his rapid rise to fame began. In 1902 Reger married Elsa von Bercken. During his first Munich season, Reger appeared in ten concerts as an organist, chamber pianist and accompanist. He continued to compose without interruption. He produced an enormous output over little more than 25 years, nearly always in abstract forms. Few of his compositions are well known in the 21st century. Many of his works are fugues or in variation form, including what is probably his best known orchestral work, the *Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Mozart* based on the opening theme of Mozart's Piano Sonata in A major, K. 331. Among his most famous works for organ is the *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* and the *Fantasy and Fugue on BACH*. In 1904 his composition *Sinfonietta in A* set off a most unwelcome stir for the composer, placing him at odds with the more conservative musical circles in Munich. By 1907 Reger had decided that the hostile climate in Munich was not worth enduring any longer, and accepted a professorship at Leipzig University.

In 1911, Reger was appointed conductor of the Meiningen Court Orchestra by Duke George II. He continued appearing as a pianist and always found time to compose. In February, 1914, he suffered a breakdown from troubles in his Meiningen post and eventually resigned. In 1915 Reger and his family settled in Jena, where he continued to compose. His concert schedule took him to Holland in May, 1916, where he died of a heart attack at age 43.

Max Reger was an extraordinarily gifted musician, widely respected as a composer, pianist, organist, conductor and teacher. A master of polyphonic and harmonic writing, he carried on the hallowed Classical and Romantic schools of composition. Although he wrote major works in nearly every genre, his best known compositions were for organ and his nine violin sonatas are among his most admired chamber pieces.

First Lutheran Church Celebrating 20th-Year Recital Season!!!

This fall will begin the 20th season of the Wednesday Concert Series at First Lutheran Church. Each Wednesday of the season from September through May, Michael Olson, First Lutheran's Organist and Minister of Music, and special guest organists, vocalists, and instrumentalists have performed a 30-minute recital of varied compositions.

Included as guest performances scheduled this fall:

Wednesday, September 23, 12:45 PM

Jeffrey Patry, Organist and Director of Music at Church of the Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale, MN will present a varied organ concert. Jeffrey has been a frequent performer for the Wednesday Concert series for several years.

Wednesday, October 21, 12:45 PM

Yollanda Bornhoff from the Chicago area will play a recital of Reformation music. Her pieces will include works by Walter Peltz, Charles Callahan, Paul Manz, and J.S. Bach. Yollanda was reading the First Lutheran website during the summer and saw Michael's Wednesday Organ Concert Series and inquired if she might come and play a recital! It will be fun to meet this delightful woman and to hear her play. She has connections with one of the ELCA pastors in Jamestown, and will also be playing this same recital in Jamestown on Saturday afternoon, October 24 at 4:00PM at St. John's Lutheran Church.

These are the "special guests" for the fall months on Michael's program schedule. Michael will be playing every other Wednesday, BUT if anyone would like to play a piece—or an entire 30 minute recital, please let Michael know at molson@flcfargo.org. He would be delighted to have you take part!

Your Support is Needed

The American Guild of Organists is the world's largest organization dedicated to a single instrument, and the only organization of its kind with a mission to "enrich lives through organ and choral music." Your help is needed to ensure that the educational programs and technology initiatives for youth and adults have the full support they need.

Your tax-deductible gift to the AGO Annual Fund will help put the organization "in the black" and "on a high note." No gift is too small; no gift is too large. Contributions can be made online or returned using a printable contribution form available on the AGO Headquarters website.

Each year the AGO Annual Fund supports the Guild's educational programs, from Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) for beginners to a professional certification program for organists and choir directors at every stage of their careers. The Guild is making great strides in digital communications and technology, including the formation of seven virtual chapters for our members under 30, live video streaming of organ music, ongoing improvements to the AGO website, and the Online National Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD) program, which is being used by 87% of our chapters. Your support is needed so that the organ's vital role in our culture can be preserved, that new members can be attracted and the organization can better serve our constituents using state-of-the-art technologies.

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



Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 31, 2015, 3:13 PM
"Ominous Organ" Program
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN

Monday, December 7th, 2015, 7:00 PM
Christmas Ring & Sing-a-long Combined Program
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND

Sunday, February 14th, 2016, 4:00 PM
"If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On!"
Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Fargo, ND

Coming in May, 2016
FM Choral Artists and Organ Program
First Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

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