



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 33, Number 1

Oct/Nov/Dec
2018

Message From the Dean

I write this letter to you on Tuesday morning, September 25—three months before Christmas morning—in the midst of another busy day. I met with my personal trainer here at First Lutheran Church earlier this morning and I just finished writing my devotional message which will be sent on Saturday morning, September 29 to members of First Lutheran Church, plus people in the community and throughout the region and world. I will have staff meeting at noon—lunch and then the business meeting. I give six piano lessons later on today. I have thirty-three private students this school year. Frankly, I did not see THAT number of students wanting to take lessons this school year. I am teaching students seven days a week for the very first time in my life—and I also did not see THAT happening, either. But if students want to take lessons (or if their parents want them to take lessons), I'll find time to teach them! Out of those thirty-three students, I have six organ students and am grateful that there are some people who want to learn to play the organ and to enhance worship in their various churches. I have students on Friday from 11:30 to 12:30, and again from 1:00 to 2:00, which is why I'm unable once again this school year to join the gag for the First Friday Lunch at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant in downtown Fargo. I very much enjoy the camaraderie and the good food and fellowship which takes place during those meals, so I'll be with you in spirit until springtime. If you haven't been to a First Friday Lunch yet, think about going soon! We will be joining forces with the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club on Monday evening, December 3 at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo for the annual Christmas Carol Sing-along. That is an event you will NOT want to

miss! I'm sure there are more details concerning that event elsewhere in this newsletter.

Concordia College in Moorhead has hosted a Church Music Workshop the last two years in early September to kick off the new school year. This year, the event will be held sometime after Christmas, so please watch for details in the next newsletter, I would guess. If you have not attended one of these workshops before, it is certainly an event you will not want to miss! The cost is nominal and includes lunch. Besides being the dean of our chapter, I am the North Dakota District Convener for AGO, so I will be meeting with the folks in the Northern Valley Chapter (Grand Forks, Crookston, Thief River Falls, and the surrounding area) this coming Friday evening, September 28. I'm thinking that we might want to do something similar and see what people would like to do during the coming year.

I am also the Vice President of ATOS—the local chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. I would LOVE to have a combined program of both groups at the Fargo Theatre—probably on a Saturday morning sometime. It would be fun to have an open console so that everyone can try to play the Mighty Wurlitzer which is a treasure in that theatre, and in downtown Fargo, and in this community for sure. We have a small membership at the current time. While I would love to have more members in our group, I am very happy for those who are currently members. We need to do a much better job of “tooting our own horn” so to speak and get people involved and interested in our group.

I attended the national AGO convention in Kansas City in early July. It was a fantastic convention indeed! I had not been to Kansas City since attending the

regional AGO convention there in 1995—quite a few years ago. The Kauffman Center for Performing Arts is an incredible facility and it needs to be seen—and the organ needs to be heard—by everyone sometime in their life, just saying...

May you continue to richly bless those who come for worship in your congregations. May all of us be richly blessed by our fellow colleagues and associates who make music for God's people.

Sincerely and musically,

Michael Olson
Minister of Music, First Lutheran Church, Fargo
Dean, Red River Valley Chapter, American Guild of Organists,
Vice President, Red River Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society.

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: Michael Olson
Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
Secretary: Brad Steen
Treasurer: Brad Steen

Updates from the RRVAGO Secretary/Treasurer

Statistics as of September 5, 2018 for the RRVAGO Chapter:

Checking account balance: \$4,885.68
(Bell State Bank statement available for inspection upon request)

Membership Numbers: 6 Regular
8 Special
1 Young Organist
2 Dual

17 PAID MEMBERS

(Membership List available upon request)

The ten Young Organists' memberships paid by the RRVAGO for September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018 have expired.

I believe it was decided at the May 2018 meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, that the chapter was going to pay the memberships for Young Organists again this coming program year of 2018-2019. If so, a current list of students and their addresses, email, and phone numbers will be needed to scan and email to New York for headquarters to enter the information into ONCARD and debit our chapter account, or advise me what the amount will be and I will send a check to headquarters or pay using our chapter debit card.

Submitted by Bradley Steen, Secretary/Treasurer/
Membership RRVAGO

Have You Renewed Your Membership in AGO?

Your dues, which include membership in the national organization, your local chapter, and a one-year subscription to THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine (TAO), provide access to all of the Guild's programs, services, and member benefits.

There are three ways to renew:

By Credit Card

1. Click [ONCARD: Pay your member dues online](#)

2. Enter username and password.
3. Click on the menu choice "Renew Dues and Subscriptions"
4. Review/update your membership type and chapter affiliation. Post Changes/Proceed
5. Review/update your personal information/chapter-specific data. Post Changes/Proceed
6. If desired, opt out of printed TAO and/or contribute to national/local funds. Continue to Pay
7. Enter your payment information. Submit Transaction

By Check

1. Go through steps 1-5 above to check all your membership data
2. Print an invoice from the "Dues Invoice Payment" page by clicking the invoice number in red
3. If you want to opt out of the printed copy of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, check the box at the bottom of the invoice and subtract \$8. You will then have access to the magazine online only at <https://www.issue/ago.org/current-issue/>
4. Make your check or money order payable to the American Guild of Organists
5. Return both invoice and check/money order to national headquarters by the due date

Over the Phone:

1. Call (212) 870-2310 and let the person who answers know you would like to renew.

AGO membership provides a variety of career resources and connects you with other people who are passionate about and support the King of Instruments as you do.

Through ONCARD Member Services you can review and update your personal information as well as access the "Find a Job" and "Find a Guild Member" features.

The AGO has partnered with Forrest T. Jones and Company to extend a variety of high-quality and competitively priced insurance plans to members.

Be an active part of our local AGO chapter by volunteering or taking on the role of an officer. Or just enjoy being a member by attending meetings, recitals and other related events.

Any membership needs can be addressed to AGO headquarters at (212) 870-2310 or members@agohq.org.

RRVAGO Makes Sustaining Member Contribution

The Red River Valley Chapter of the AGO has made a contribution to the American Guild of Organists Annual Fund in the amount of \$50.00 which qualifies us for being a Sustaining Member as was voted on at the May 2018 meeting at First Presbyterian Church. Our chapter's contribution was acknowledged this summer at the Kansas City AGO National Convention and will be listed in "The American Organist" in the December 2019 issue.

The following response was sent to Dean Michael Olson:

Dear Mr. Olson,

Thank you for your chapter's contribution to the AGO. Your chapter's generous gift of \$50.00 to the Annual Fund (Chapters) was recorded on June 11, 2018. Our donor list will be published in the December issue of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine.

The American Guild of Organists fosters a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Your generous contribution helps to support this mission through educational programs, outreach, and member services that otherwise could never be supported by membership dues alone.

Please extend our thanks to the members of your chapter executive board for this gift. Thank you again for your support of the AGO!

*Sincerely yours,
F. Anthony Thurman, DMA
Director of Development and Communications
American Guild of Organists*

First Meeting of ATOS Scheduled for October 7, 2018

The first meeting of the 2018-2019 year for the American Theatre Organ Society will be held at the home of Faye Crume, east of Glyndon, just off U.S. Highway 10 (south of the big PUPPYLAND sign), on Sunday afternoon, October 7, at 4:30 PM. This is a potluck meal so please bring something to pass. Discussion of details for the upcoming Silent Movie Night at the Fargo Theatre later in October will be on the agenda.

NDSU Presents *Messiah* at First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran Church, Fargo, will serve as the host site for *Messiah* presented by the NDSU Music Department on Friday and Saturday evenings, November 30 and December 1 at 7:30 PM. Tickets for the performances may be obtained through the following website:

nds.showare.com

Two Organists Added to Sublist

Two people have responded thus far regarding interest in substituting for area organists; Mariann Astrup and Dillon Swanson (Concordia College student). Organ subs are difficult to find and an expanded list of individuals to fulfill this need would be appreciated. If you are available and interested to be placed on a sub-list, please contact Dean Michael Olson molson@flcfargo.org or Secretary/Treasurer Bradley Steen bjls96@yahoo.com.

Paul Jacobs to Appear with the Minnesota Orchestra

Paul Jacobs, known as the only organ soloist ever to have won a GRAMMY Award, performed with the Minnesota Orchestra for the dedication of the reconditioned and now fully functional 108-rank, 6,975 pipe Aeolian-Skinner Opus 892 organ in the new and "stunning" space of Northrop Auditorium on the campus of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13. Mr. Jacobs performed a newly commissioned work for organ and orchestra by John Harbison.

In the decades since its original installation until Northrop's closure in 2011, the organ was heard in at least 350 concerts, as well as over 1,000 convocation and graduation ceremonies. Some of those organists include Palmer Christian, Charles Courboin, William Barnes, Arthur Poister, Alesander Schreiner, Virgil Fox, Robert Baker, Paul Manz, Jean Langlais, William Teague, Heinrich Fleischer, Daniel Chorzempa, Christoph Albrecht, E. Power Biggs, and Thomas Murray. If the opportunity again arises, this organ in the new venue is well worth a trip to Minneapolis to experience it.

Permanent Organist/Interim Organist Position

The Comstock-Hoff Lutheran Parish south of Moorhead is looking for an organist to fill a permanent position. The position would be for one Sunday service at 9:30am alternating between two locations, Hoff Lutheran Church, Rustad, MN (7 miles south of Moorhead on Hwy 75) and Comstock Lutheran Church, Comstock, MN (13 miles south of Moorhead on Hwy 75). There is no choir rehearsal but there would be occasional special services. College students are welcome to apply! This is a great "part-time" job to earn extra income!

The position is immediately available. They are also looking for people to play in the interim. The pay scale would be based on the applicant's ability and experience.

Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide organ/piano music for all Sunday morning services (including prelude, postlude and offering music) and other seasonal services of the church, which may include Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
2. Accompany occasional special music as needed.
3. Provide organ music for weddings and funerals held at the church if requested. For these services, the organist will receive additional pay as specified by the church.
4. Prepare an annual report detailing the current condition of the organ(s) and/or piano(s) and specify any necessary maintenance.
5. Ex Officio member of the Parish Worship Committee. Work cooperatively with the Parish Worship Committee and Pastor.
6. Submit list of dates/church played to Pastor each month in order to receive compensation.

Skills and Qualifications

1. Knowledge of the instrument and keyboard ability sufficient to play hymns, liturgy, and anthem accompaniment.
2. Ability to play with accurate rhythm.
3. Knowledge of the Lutheran Church, matching appropriate keyboard music with the themes of the church year.
4. Ability to work well with others.

For more information, contact Jill Steichen (Pastor, Comstock-Hoff Lutheran Parish) at (701)371-6257 or chpastor@live.com

Registration Is Open for International Music Camp

Registration is now open for the 64th season of the International Music Camp, at the International Peace Garden on the Canada/United States border between Manitoba and North Dakota.

Sessions for Piano, Organ and Handbells are among several varied programs offered by the Music Camp.

PIANO and PIANO/ORGAN

The Piano and Piano/Organ program includes daily classes (beginning through advanced sections) in ensemble performance (duets), musicianship, music history, as well as an evening piano seminar. Two 1/2-hour private lessons are included in the Piano program and two 1-hour lessons are included in the Piano/Organ program. Piano/Organ campers will take their lessons on the Organ. Piano campers can sign up for an additional set of two lessons. The program is open to students ages 10 through adult with at least two years of piano experience. The Piano/Organ program is great for students who already know how to play the piano and are interested in learning about the organ.

The Piano and Piano/Organ session is July 7-13, 2019. Registration for this session is \$465 before May 1 or \$480 after May 1.

The organ instructor will be Marilyn Schempp from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Marilyn is our current Regional Councillor.

HANDBELLS

Handbell players may enroll in one of two sessions. The Session 4 Handbell camp will be for student handbell ringers who have finished grades 5-12 and adults. The program is designed for those who are at the early to intermediate levels of experience with handbell ringing, and will include sessions on technique and care of handbells, sight-reading, and repertoire reading.

Registration for Session 4 Handbells runs July 7-13, 2019. Cost is \$430 if registered before May or \$445 after May 1.

Adult musicians will have another opportunity to play Handbells during the Adult Community Camps held Session 7. This short and intense session is for ringers ages 21 and up with intermediate through advanced experiences with handbells.

Registration for Session 7 Handbells (ages 21 and up) runs July 27-30, 2019. The cost for Session 7 is \$265 if registered before May 1 or \$280 after May 1.

The Handbells instructor for both Session 4 and Session 7 will be Monica McGowan from Lakeville, Minnesota. She brings her extensive training and experience as a ringer, director, clinician and conductor, as well as her enthusiasm for handbells and handchimes to every forum and venue.

Campers are housed in open dormitories and cabins. All room arrangements are made prior to camp at the time registration is received. Meals are served in the camp dining hall. All performances are free and open to the public.

Campers can register at internationalmusiccamp.com and clicking on the "registration info" button at the top of the page, or by calling 701-838-8472. Campers are encouraged to register early, as some programs and sessions fill up.

Inaugural Pacific Lutheran University Organ Invitational October 20-21, 2018

As part of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Organ, built by Paul Fritts and Co., Pacific Lutheran University invites outstanding high school juniors and seniors for two days of masterclasses, performances, visits to the workshop of Paul Fritts and Co., tours of important organs in the Seattle-Tacoma area, and other events that feature the lively organ culture and nature of the Pacific Northwest. For qualified students living outside the area, limited travel stipends are available.

Besides a chance to play the Fritts organ and get feedback from the PLU organ faculty (Drs. Tegels and Wohlers), there will be organ crawls to several instruments in the area.

On Sunday, October 21 participants can visit a church of their choice in the morning. In the afternoon participants will attend the 20th Anniversary concert of the organ, featuring PLU organist Paul Tegels, assisted by PLU faculty Svend Ronning on violin and Jennifer Rhyne on flute, as well as the PLU Choral Union under the direction of Richard Nance.

Overnight accommodation can be arranged in residence halls with current PLU students, and meals will be provided.

Participation in this event is free, but registration by October 6 is required. For those needing reimbursement for travel, limited travel stipends are available. Please indicate so on the registration form.

For more information, including a more detailed schedule, please visit www.plu.edu/organ

AGO Dean Michael Olson, having heard the Fritts organ in 2000 when Seattle hosted the national AGO convention, describes the PLU instrument as "really something else!", and further states that if anyone were in Tacoma, Washington over Teachers' Convention weekend "they would be in for a great treat indeed!"

Concordia College Annual Christmas Concerts

Concordia college will be hosting its annual Christmas Concerts at the Memorial Auditorium on campus beginning Friday, November 30 at 7PM; Saturday, December 1 at 2PM and 7PM; and the final concert on Sunday, December 2 at 2PM. Tickets will be available beginning Tuesday, October 30 at 9AM.

Annual Christmas Ring- and Singalong

Members and friends of the RRVAGO and FM Area Music Club will be joining together to present the annual Christmas Ring- and Singalong at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 3 at 7PM. Several RRV chapter organists will accompany the audience in the singing of Christmas carols, and Christmas selections will be performed by The FM Music Club Noteables and the BELLissimo handbell choir. A delightful way to open the Christmas season! The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served following the program.

American Guild of Organists Strategic Growth Plan 2018-2021 from Headquarters

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is keenly aware of the importance that strategic growth planning plays in our ability to chart a successful course for the future. The plan is the product of a collaborative process that was led by the National Council and included active participation by a planning group composed of a diverse mix of AGO stakeholders and staff. The process was structured and facilitated by 2B Communications, a consulting firm with extensive experience working with professional associations to develop strategic growth plans.

Key planning steps included:

Research: Internal and external stakeholder interviews; online surveys of Chapter Leaders, Ago Young Organist members, and independent/dual Royal Canadian College of Organist members; findings from the AGO's 2014 Survey on membership.

Operational Review: Of AGO's donor, membership and financial/budget trends.

Facilitated Planning Sessions: In-person, collaborative planning meetings in October 2017 and January 2018.

Plan Refinement: Feedback and refinement steps after each planning session.

Approval: Plan approval by the National Council on April 27, 2018.

During the in-person planning sessions and subsequent review and refinement cycles, the National Council and planning group thoroughly reviewed and vetted the research findings, engaged in robust discussions about the core issues facing the organization, and arrived at the AGO's top areas of focus for the upcoming three years. The AGO staff and National Council, in collaboration with its National Committees, Task Forces and Chapters, will share responsibility for implementing the plan.

The multi-step approach was designed to yield an actionable, three-year Strategic Growth Plan that will help the AGO fulfill its vision and mission:

The vision of the American Guild of Organists is to engage, support and uplift every organist.

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

GOALS and KEY STRATEGIES

CHAPTERS

Ensure an excellent member experience across all Chapters/

CREATE and administer an assessment to measure Chapter vitality and to identify the characteristics and best practices of strong Chapters in a variety of settings.

INCREASE opportunities for Chapter leaders to easily share ideas and best practices.

ENHANCE and expand Chapter support services (e.g., Improve programs and technical/back-office support, implement a new staffing model).

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Maximize the effectiveness of the AGO's volunteer leaders.

STREAMLINE and improve the effectiveness of the AGO Volunteer Leadership structure (e.g., Identify other structure possibilities, evaluate current roles, create more focused goals for committees).

DEVELOP and deliver a proactive, high-quality, multi-faceted, and sustained Volunteer Leadership recruitment, training, and support program.

MEMBERSHIP

Increase membership satisfaction by enhancing programs and resources for all AGO members.

DEVELOP and implement a proactive, nationally-guided new member welcome and retention process.

EXPAND online and in-person learning resources to meet the needs of members of all ages and levels who play pipe and/or digital organs.

EVALUATE the Certification program and adjust as needed to align with organists' needs and improve return on investment.

REDESIGN and maintain the AGO website to improve content and usability.

EVALUATE and refresh the TAO magazine to ensure relevance for all members.

(GOALS and KEY STRATEGIES continued on Page 8)

Strategic Growth Plan 2018-2021 from Headquarters

GOALS and KEY STRATEGIES continued from Page 7

COMMUNITY

Continue to grow a vibrant, inclusive, and connected community of organists.

STRENGTHEN efforts to identify and attract members of all ages and levels who play pipe and/or digital organs.
ENSURE that AGO communications consistently reflect the full spectrum of organists and their interests.
Facilitate new face-to-face and online engagement opportunities for organists with common needs and interests.
EXPLORE creating a mentorship program.

LEGACY/ADVOCACY

Promote the organ and organists in their historical and evolving roles.

LEVERAGE national and regional conventions to raise public visibility (e.g., possibly change name from "convention" to "festival", work with local radio stations to deliver unique programs related to the organ).
CREATE and implement programs to raise both visibility and support among current and new audiences (e.g., AGO members, potential members, patrons of the organ).
PROACTIVELY seek media opportunities to publicize the organ and organists.
ESTABLISH/CONTINUE partnerships with organizations that have shared interests.

FUNDING & OPERATIONS

Expand the AGO's capacity to serve Chapters and members through financial growth and revenue diversification.

DEVELOP a robust partnership program that delivers high value to all participants. Expand fundraising programs with emphasis on major gifts and planned giving.
EVALUATE the current dues structure and potentially identify new membership categories (e.g., institutional membership, hybrid membership/fundraising).
UPGRADE the technology infrastructure to support national, Chapter, and member needs (e.g., replace existing Association Management System).
ALIGN staffing and update internal processes to support the successful implementation of the strategic plan.

AGO at WORK

The AGO National Council has recently formed a task force to create an anti-harassment policy and a Task Force on Inclusivity to foster stronger relationships and provide support for members playing digital instruments.

The Strategic Planning Task Force will be meeting shortly to recommend immediate priorities for implementation of the three-year *Strategic Growth Plan*.

The Task Force on Denominational Music Organizations met and discussed ways to assist those who want help with salary negotiations consistent with the provisions of the AGO's Settlement Agreement with the FTC.

The Committee for Conventions will meet in Chicago in October to orient the 2021 Regional Convention Coordinators prior to the first full meetings of the 2018-2020 National Council and Board of Regional Councillors.

Meanwhile, job descriptions are being finalized for new staff positions that will enable AGO Headquarters to provide more direct support to AGO Chapters and greater interaction with AGO members.

Kirkin' of the Tartans at First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church, downtown Fargo, will hold its annual *Kirkin' of the Tartans* worship on Sunday, November 18 to celebrate the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian church. A translation of the name would be "blessing of the tartans." *Kirk* is the Scottish word for church and a *tartan* is the plaid-patterned fabric, usually wool, that clans—or families—use to distinguish themselves from other clans. Essentially, tartans provide a visual link to clan identity and heritage.

Kirkin' Worship Services have been held throughout North America since the early 1940's, but the tradition is rooted in 18th century Scottish faith and patriotism. It is said that when English conquerors banned the wearing of Tartan in 1745, some Scottish families began to carry swatches of the material concealed under their clothing into their church services. At some point in the service, when the minister gave a blessing, the clanspeople would touch their hidden bits of Tartan as a way to recommit themselves to their Lord and their Scottish heritage.

The two services at 9:00 and 11:00AM feature a full orchestra, organ, combined choirs, the Heather & Thistle Pipe and Drum Band and Celtic Dancers. A feast for eyes, ears, and souls.

Carols by Candlelight

Carols by Candlelight will be held this year on December 16 at 6:30PM at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Fargo. This year's theme is *The King of Love and Light* and will feature three children's choirs, The St. Andrew's Brass, Westminster Ringers, chamber orchestra and organ, and congregational carol-singing in a celebration of word and seasonal music. Christmas "goodies" will be served following the service, with piano music provided by Nancy Norris. This is another seasonal favorite event you won't want to miss.

A Parade of American Music Honoring the Veterans

On Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 7PM the FM Area Music Club will present its annual program of American music with a salute to all veterans. The event is free and open to the public and will be held at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Fargo. This year's program will feature American and patriotic music played by The Golden Notes New Horizons Band, variations on the Star Spangled Banner played by organist Michael Olson, music from the PBS Lewis and Clark Series played by guitarist Lanny Faleide, an America the Beautiful Slide Presentation by photographer Jack Discher accompanied by an organ/piano duet by Ruth Discher and Alpha Roeszler, as well as an American music singalong, poetry reading and an instrumental salute to the veterans. Refreshments will be served following the program. All are invited!



Upcoming Events

November 11, 2018 at 7:00PM

A Parade of American and Patriotic Music
First Presbyterian Church, Downtown Fargo

November 18, 2018 at 9:00AM and 11:00AM

Kirkin' of the Tartans Worship
First Presbyterian Church, Downtown Fargo

November 30 & December 1 at 7:30PM

Messiah presented by NDSU
First Lutheran Church, Downtown Fargo

**November 30 at 7:00PM, December 1 at 2:00PM
& 7:00PM, and December 2 at 2:00PM**

Concordia College Christmas Concerts
Memorial Auditorium on the Concordia Campus
Moorhead, MN

December 3 at 7:00PM

Annual Christmas Ring and Sing-along
First Presbyterian Church, Downtown Fargo

December 16, 2018 at 6:30PM

Carols by Candlelight
First Presbyterian Church, Downtown Fargo

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