



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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The Contemporary Service (Part I of III)

The modern contemporary service can be traced back to Vatican II which occurred in the years 1962 to 1964. One of the topics for discussion is what to do about a perceived drop in attendance in Catholic Churches. The assembled multitude of bishops and cardinals came to the collective conclusion that the Latin Mass was the culprit. Their thinking was fairly logical in that even the most devout Catholics were not connecting with a language no one understood. They found chants boring and no longer relevant. By the end of the conclave, the conclusion was to dump the Latin Mass in favor of English or the local vernacular which Webster's Dictionary describes as "using a language or dialect native to a region or country rather than a literary, cultured or foreign language."

Soon the church put out a search for composers to write new music that was easy to sing and that was uncomplicated. Catholic musicians who had college and university training were outraged. Raymond Daveluy, chief organist of St Joseph's Oratory in Montreal exclaimed that if the Catholic Church would require him or his learned colleagues to perform the new music, which was based on folk, he would

never play in a Catholic church again. That was in 1968!

The publishing of religious folk material, done mostly by amateur composers, was in stark contrast to the Popes for the Renaissance who commissioned the greatest composers in Europe to write the Mass, with Palestrina being the most prominent. It was to the churches advantage that the rebirth of learning began in Italy spanning the 14th and 15th centuries. Even today, this incredibly beautiful music is studied in all music schools. Those going on to post graduate work in music will be even more involved in Catholic Renaissance music. The "new music" was heralded by priests everywhere and worshipers seemed to love it. The church immediately set out to publish song liturgy books but without the harmony so as to not scare the people away. Many old Catholic hymns were retained but with the melodic line only.

So how did this religious folk movement find its way into the protestant church? Stay tuned...

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean

Message From the Dean

This past year, we have emphasized increasing our chapter membership. The results have been mixed. We have signed up several new members as the board, and



others, have been actively recruiting. It was a goal to increase our numbers by ten percent and be eligible for a \$500 grant from national. With some of our old timers not renewing and with some new members opting for local membership only, our numbers grew only slightly. The board has been working with a prospect list which is several years old and about to run its course. It was decided that an all new prospect list was needed and Sue Clamby then produced a list of churches not only for Fargo-Moorhead, but the surrounding area. Sue spent nearly 35 hours with this project which now gives the chapter a substantive start for next year. The job remaining is to get email addresses for these churches and their

organists. An all new recruitment campaign will begin in a few months so that the new 2006-2007 AGO year can see a good increase for the chapter.

Secondly, the board and finance committee must come to grips about obtaining underwriting for the Tim Olsen concert in April. The past two artist recitals produced losses which drew down our net worth over \$3,000. Underwriting today has been much more difficult than say 25 years ago when perhaps 10 artist organizations were out asking for money. Today, that number is approaching 50 as we witness a veritable arts explosion in the region. If you members have any ideas for grants from especially the business community, please contact me or Marty Baumgartner and we can follow this up. To get the ball rolling, Johnson Organ Company will throw in the first \$100. We would also welcome donations from our own AGO members.

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean

Organist Lunch Club

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

Chapter Officers

Dean: Lance Johnson
Sub-Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben
Secretary: Bill Tweten
Treasurer: Marty Baumgartner

Board Members at Large

2006: Michael Olson, Robyn Vinje
2007: Brad Steen, Dawn Pappenfuss
2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon

It's Time to Share Your Stories

The search is on! RRV AGO is looking for *Hot Topics* and *Funny Stories*. We are requesting *your* questions and *your* stories...

Serious *Hot Topics* that have come up in conversation lately: How often is it ok to repeat music? Share some of your favorite music. Where do you buy music? Where do you get the book bindings cut and spiral bound or 3-ring set-up? How much money is that? How much time do you prepare for a one hour service? Do you sight read music during services?

Stories we want to hear: What is the strangest wedding request you've had? What is the strangest funeral request you've had? Best weddings? Worst weddings? Have you ever fallen off the organ bench? Have you ever gotten the giggles? What happened?

OK, those are some examples—now it's your turn! The editors will select a new *Hot Topic* and a new *Story Line* each month.

February's *Hot Topic*: What organs in your area would you most like to tour on an organ crawl?

February's *Story Line*: Unusual funeral requests...

Email your *Hot Topics* and *Story Lines* to rvago@hotmail.com. Selected responses (space permitting) will be published the following month, and a new *Hot Topics* and new *Story Line* will be announced. We look forward to your responses.

January Hot Topic (Crazy Wedding Stories): When my daughter was married in the gazebo, her friends and fellow string quartet members volunteered their services as a wedding gift. So they had beautiful string music for their wedding. But then, she and her groom, avid sci-fi fans, had the theme from Star Wars played as their recessional. It started out just like Mendelssohn, then broke into the Star Wars movie theme—right in the middle of Island Park in Fargo. (Vicky Wms Sieben)

Financial Committee Report

January 2006: The finance committee presented a preliminary budget to the board for consideration for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, this will be finalized in the coming months. Vicky Wms Sieben, Robyn Vinje, and Marty Baumgartner also made an analysis of the past five years annual financials and programs available to the board.

Recommendations from the committee include: Reducing the newsletter expenses by email distribution, bring the directory under RRV AGO management to reduce production costs, increasing the use of grants, gifts, and underwriting. The most important item was to promote financial responsibility for programming. RRV AGO Standing Rules require a program budget be approved by the board before arrangements can be made, AGO national website provides budget forms for chapter usage. These will be used and must be approved for all programming, as a tool to uncover all potential income areas, opportunities for grants and donations, and consider all expenses.

~Vicky Wms Sieben, Sub-Dean

Clambey to Play at Fargo Theatre

Susan Clambey is the featured organist playing the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fargo Theatre on February 18. Beginning at 6:30PM, she will play a 30 minute pre show to the "Ninth Annual Celebration of Women and Their Music." Tickets are still available at the Fargo Theatre box office.

Pipeline Profile

Victoria (Vicky) Wms Sieben, Sub-Dean



I was raised in Wahpeton, North Dakota. I started piano lessons at the age of four because my parents said that I was playing the piano already, and they thought I might as well play songs they recognized. I was too young for the local piano teachers, so I started piano with my grandmother, who had played piano for WDAY radio in the 1920s. I took piano lessons from a friend of my grandmother from the age of six through 15, until she retired. I grew up playing a Chickering piano at my grandmother's, a Steinway at the lake and at my piano teacher's house, and a Story & Clark at home. At age 12, I started accompanying the school choir, and continued accompanying choirs and soloists through my high school years. I sang in the choir, with ensemble and solo work, and I took up the bassoon at 15, at the request of the band instructor. During marching band season, I played a variety of percussion instruments. I taught myself how to play the guitar, and used it quite a bit in the Methodist church in Wahpeton, and a number of area churches with the Methodist Lay Witness Movement. At the age of 17, I started studying Christian Science, and played the small electronic organ for the services at the Christian Science Church in Wahpeton. I spent one year in engineering at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa Oklahoma, and dropped out of my second year of college, architectural engineering, at NDSSS in Wahpeton.

I had done job cost bookkeeping in my father's business, Twin City Roofing, summers, from the age of 12 through 20. I worked as a bookkeeper for Donovan Construction, a power line construction company, and became a store manager for B. Dalton Booksellers, before marrying Gene Sieben and settling in Fargo-Moorhead. We had a number of businesses, mostly amusement related, including Advanced Amusements, a local amusement game operation from 1980-2001, and M.H. Associates, Ltd., a national amusement game wholesale distributor and manufacturer from 1984-2004. As president of MHA, I attended and graduated from the AMOA Notre Dame Executive Pro-

gram, and amusement industry education program 1996-1998. I currently am working as an insurance auditor with US-Reports of Loveland Colorado, and as a Long Term Care Insurance agent with Genworth Financial.

I have served as an F-M Chamber Committee Chairperson, on the Red River Dance Board of Directors, worked on a fund-raising team for the F-M Symphony, and served as a facilitator for Beginning Experience in Fargo. I am currently the Governor and Assistant General for the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Dakota, and 2nd Reader, organist, and Executive Board Chair of the Christian Science Church in Fargo.

I began playing the organ at the Christian Science Church in Fargo in the early 1980s, but have not played continuously, as I have had other church member duties. The church has hired a number of organists over the years, but I have been playing for the last eight years. I have had the pleasure of accompanying Katherine Ellingson as our vocal soloist, and Darci Bultema, and Abra Bush as substitute soloists. It is a great pleasure to accompany such fine professional sopranos. I have no organ education. I began by adjusting my piano technique, and touching the pedal on the important bass notes. I am fortunate to have a natural musical ability, and now play a wide range of organ music, mostly very old music from the church archives and music gifts from a friend who likes auctions. Most of the music I play, and the vocal solo collection, ranges from the 1890s through the 1950s, which suits the circa 1916 Austin organ at the Christian Science Church.

I enjoy attending and supporting the arts activities of the F-M area, from symphony to jazz, arts and artisans. I am proud to be a member of Viva Marimba at Concordia, and thoroughly enjoy learning a new instrument. As a Master Gardener, I enjoy landscaping my home acreage. I am a downhill skier in the winter, and a swimmer in the summer. I have four children, two married and on their own, Leah McGregor, Moorhead, and Michal Lang (Michal is a cellist you may have heard locally or at the symphony), now of St. Cloud, MN, and Ariel and Aaron, teenagers still at home. I was widowed in 1995.

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!

Dr. Timothy Olsen ~ Concert and Class

As you all know, Dr. Timothy Olsen, former student of Peter Nygaard will be playing a recital at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 2 at 4:00PM. Tim will also present a master class/workshop in Trinity's balcony on Saturday, April 1 from 10:00AM until Noon. Peter will have one or two students playing with Dr. Olsen. The cost will be \$10 for AGO members and \$15 for non-members. It has been some time since our chapter has held one of these and we all hope you members will support it with your attendance.

For the concert, anyone wishing to contribute to underwriting this program at any level is welcome. Please send your donations to RRV AGO, Box 2223, Fargo ND 58108, Attention: Treasurer. All donations will be acknowledged in the program.

~Lance E. Johnson, Dean

Board Meeting Notes

January 13, 2006: The RRV AGO Board met at Boulger Funeral Home on January, 13, 2006 at 4:00PM. Members present were: Lance, Vicki, Michael, Robyn, Sue, Marty and Bill.

Lance offered a survey on good advertising ideas as we consider the upcoming Tim Olsen recital. The Forum will be our media focus along with an 8x11 poster for advertising at churches and the colleges. The recital is set for April 2, 2006 at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead at 4:00PM. There will be a workshop presented by Tim Olsen on Saturday at the church.

Next a draft budget was presented by Lance for the upcoming recital and workshop. Ticket prices were discussed and the workshop fees. It was suggested that the workshop fee be higher for non-members as a courtesy to our membership. Lance is securing a matching grant from the FM Area Foundation and donations for the board will help kick off this fund!

It was noted that the Christmas Hymn Sing brought in \$1,021 for the food pantry. What a wonderful gift from our chapter!

The press release for the upcoming recital was discussed with Vicki volunteering to make up the program flyer and Marty to print them. Lance will continue to gather the information for the press release. Marty will see if the alumni news at Concordia will give us some press. Vicki suggested the community calendar on cable as a free option as well.

Next Vicki and Marty presented a finance study on the past few years of the RRV AGO. Vicki evaluated that with a focus on getting a few more members, pursuing more grants and gifts, keeping our newsletter costs down, and getting more advertising income from the Pipeline newsletter—it wouldn't be that difficult to double our current income levels in the future.

With the cost savings of our new electronic newsletter, it was moved by Robyn and seconded by Sue that we will not renew our Bulk Postal mail permit.

A discussion on membership followed. At present we have 17 regular voting members, 4 special, 13 chapter subscribing, 2 dual, and 2 student members. We did receive 4 new members this year. It was noted that we are not getting renewals and must be more proactive in our membership drive. Lance suggested starting a new membership committee on April 1.

Treasurer's report showed a balance to date of \$7,718.39. Sue Clambey has compiled a church list for us and we so appreciate her work on this!

After a long hard-hitting meeting—the board adjourned at 5:30PM. The next meeting is set for February 16 at Noon at Boulger Funeral Home.

~Bill Tweten, Secretary

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 continue to mail the newsletter as we have in the past.

We encourage feedback as well as submission of articles for publication. Please send your articles by the 15th of each month to rrvago@hotmail.com. We reserve the right to accept, reject, edit or modify any submission.

A very special thank you to our supporters ...



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Greg Craychee
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Sherman Syverson

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Upcoming Events

April 2, 2006

Tim Olson Concert ~ 4:00PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN

May 7, 2006

Family Potluck Dinner

Marty & Sheila Baumgartner res. ~ 4:00PM

2709 - 39th Ave SW, Fargo, ND



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