



# Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 28, Number 5

Sept-Oct-Nov  
2013

## Message From the Dean

Whether we are ready or not, the Fall season is upon us, and with it, a return to what we might call "normal." We head back to school, back to choir, back to a regular worship schedules at churches that may have changed worship times during summer months, back to our regular monthly meetings, etc. I'm not ready. I want Summer to linger, because I don't feel like I have enjoyed it enough. Where did my chances go for a lazy day reading a book in a hammock, or taking in an outdoor concert somewhere?

I hope most of you have found time for some summer rest and relaxation, or perhaps some fun vacation time with family. As we round the corner into Fall and our regular routines, let's plan to take some time with each other to celebrate our work as organists and our love of the instrument! There are some opportunities for just that right ahead in September! First will be our First Friday Lunch at the Fryin' Pan on Main Avenue on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The AGO Board meeting starts at 11 am, but we wait to order lunch at noon when other organists join us. There are always fresh stories to be shared in the company of those who have common interests. We might not see each other between our monthly lunches, but we get to know each other and share some laughs together over our lunches.

Our next opportunity is the Organ Crawl on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, with hands-on stops at four pipe organs in the afternoon: **1:15PM at 1st Presbyterian Church** (650 2nd Avenue North, Fargo; Schantz organ); **2:15PM at St. Joseph Catholic Church** (218 10th Street South, Moorhead; expanded Kilgen organ); **3:15PM at**

**Bethesda Lutheran Church** (401 40th Avenue South, Moorhead; Johnson organ); and **4:15PM at Fargo Theatre** Downtown on Broadway; MightyWurlitzer organ). Our AGO group has not hosted an organ crawl for a very long time! Each organ will be demonstrated by the host organist, a chance to look at the pipes will be offered, and then hands-on time will be encouraged. Michael Barone, from National Public Radio's "Pipe Dreams" program, will be with us and may have comments to share at each stop. We finish our day with a chance to visit with Michael Barone over dinner at 6:00 pm. We have a dining room reserved in downtown Fargo at Toscana (corner of Broadway and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North.) Each of us is welcome to attend as many of the organ stops (no pun intended) as we are able, and to come to the dinner, which will be pay your own way, of course! What a great opportunity to invite friends to see various pipe organs up close and then share a meal together!

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our "Fabulous French" program, which had to be rescheduled after a late blizzard in April forced us to cancel. (Who would have thought that could happen?) Again, we will have Michael Barone with us as a host of the program, and several of our members will be sharing music from French composers. Please join us at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral at 4:00 pm, and invite your music-loving friends to attend. The success of these events depends upon the support of our AGO members to help publicize and promote attendance. Hope to see you there!

Sally Harmon, Dean, RRVAGO  
[songsally@aol.com](mailto:songsally@aol.com)

### First Friday Luncheon

**Who** Everyone is Welcome!

**When** First Friday of the Month at Noon

**Where** Fryin' 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

June 7, 2013

The RRVAGO Board met at the Fargo Fryin' Pan after the First Friday Lunch.

Those present were Sally Harmon, Sonia Carlson, Ruth Strawn, Tom Thoreson, James Mackay, Alpha Roeszler, Michael Olson, and Robyn Vinje.

The minutes of the May meeting and the treasurer's report were distributed electronically previously by the secretary and treasurer.

Current balances on hand are as follows: Checking \$5,848.21; CD \$2818.96; Grand Total \$8667.17

Sally reported that after the music exchange in May, there are still three boxes of Norma's music left in Sally's office. Anyone interested in going through it should set up a time with Sally.

Michael announced that he is planning to attend the regional AGO convention in Springfield, MO and would like to take an item from the RRV chapter for the silent auction. Robyn moved, and Ruth S. seconded, that we authorize him to purchase a basket of local items for not more than \$50. Motion carried.

Michael also announced that the fee for Organized Rhythm, an organ and percussion duo, would be \$5000 plus lodging. We would perhaps sponsor them in October 2014. No action was taken.

Sally announced that *Those Fabulous French*, the program at Gethsemane Episcopal Church which had to be postponed this spring due to the weather, has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 22. It is the date Michael Barone is available.

The Christmas Sing-along will be Monday Dec.9 at First Lutheran Church in Fargo at 7PM.

The March 2014 program will be an organ concert by our members. Ruth S. and Sally will work on a theme, looking at a possible composer's significant birthday that might be celebrated. We might also honor American Composers. (Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>) George Frederick Handel was born February 23 1685, so we could celebrate his 330<sup>th</sup> birthday that month in 2015.

The next First Friday Lunch will be Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> to avoid the Fourth of July weekend.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, Secretary

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## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting July 12, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the board of the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was called to order by dean Sally Harmon at 11:03 am. Members present were Sally Harmon, Tom Thoreson, James Mackay. At its June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the board voted to hold its regular monthly meeting at 11:00am on first Fridays, with lunch and conversation following at noon. Due to the Independence Day holiday, the July meeting was rescheduled to the second Friday.

Dean Sally Harmon reported on several items.

Michael Olson attended the AGO Region VI convention in Springfield, MO, June 17-20.

Organized Rhythm ([www.organizedrhythm.com](http://www.organizedrhythm.com)), a duo of Clive Driskill-Smith FRCO, sub-organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and percussionist Joseph Gramley, director, Julliard Summer Percussion Seminar, is a possible October 2014 program. The duo's fee is \$5,000.00 plus lodging.

The first program year offering will be *Those Fabulous French*, on Sunday, September 22, 2013 at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, Fargo. The program was rescheduled from the spring. This date is due to Michael Barone's availability. Musicians who have agreed to perform are Jim Gurney, Sally Harmon, Michael Olson, Alpha Roeszler/Ruth Discher (duet). Potential musicians are Jay Hershberger, Peggy Johnson, and Bill Tweten.

Michael Barone suggested that an additional activity could be an organ crawl on Saturday, September 21. Organs suggested for the crawl included First Lutheran

Church (Fargo), Messiah Lutheran Church (Fargo), and Trinity Lutheran Church (Moorhead), with the crawl ending at the Fargo Theatre. The host organists of the possible churches will be contacted.

The Christmas Sing-Along will be Monday, December 9, 2013 at First Lutheran Church, Fargo. Carolyn Hensrud is coordinating this program with Michael Olson. Susan Clambey has volunteered to assist.

The March 2014 program will be a members' organ concert at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo. A possible theme would be composers with significant anniversaries in 2014.

Treasurer Tom Thoreson reviewed the June 2013 treasurer's report (distributed electronically). The balance as of July 12, 2013 is \$6,198.31. Tom reported that 22 members have paid 2013-14 dues with 13 members outstanding.

There were no corrections to the minutes of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The next regular chapter board meeting will be Friday, August 2, 2013, 11:00AM at Fryn' Pan Restaurant.

Submitted: James Mackay, Secretary

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## Getting to Know You

*This edition features RRVAGO member and Secretary, James Mackay.*

By ranks and stops, a brief bio of James Mackay

I was born in Lander, Wyo., lived briefly in Oakland, Nebr., and spent elementary through high school in Hot Springs, S.D. Since 1988 I've lived in the Red River Valley (Mayville, Moorhead, West Fargo), 17 of those years in Fargo. In between high school and my North Dakota sojourn, I lived in Laramie and Casper, Wyo.; Elkhart, Lawrence, and Topeka, Kan.; and a year in Santa Barbara, Ca. I'm of Scots, English, and Swedish descent.

My family is a musical one. My mother studied music education with an emphasis on voice and piano at the University of Wyoming. While my father studied business and industrial arts at UW, he sang in church choirs both as a treble and later a bass. My brother studied at the UND as a percussion major. He now lives in Central Point, Ore., where he is active in the jazz and ethnic music scene as a vibraphonist, percussionist, pianist, and composer. My paternal grandparents immigrated from Scotland after the Great War. My grandmother had studied at a conservatory in Scotland and, as a contralto specializing in oratorio, had performed both in the UK and Europe. She taught piano and voice in Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyo., where one of her students was my mother. My granddad was a French horn major, and was a bandmaster at several schools in Wyoming. One of those was in my mother's home town of Kemmerer (first J. C. Penney's first store) where my mother was in his band, and he rented a room at her parent's home. My grandmother visited Kemmerer several times a year to coach vocal students. My parents meeting was inevitable. My maternal grandparents were both the first generation born in the US, my grandmother's parents immigrating from Sweden and my grandfather's from England). While not trained musicians, my grandfather played four or five different harmonicas, and both of them loved to sing. My grandmother had an extensive 45 and 78 r.p.m. collection which was a good balance to my classical music background. All this is by way of saying ... music has always been part of my life.

My principal music teacher was Dr Jackson Hammitt, now professor emeritus of music at Chadron State College, with whom I studied from 1972-1979. We made the 60-mile trip from Hot Springs to Chadron, Nebr., for lessons first at CSC on a tracker (Degner & Gruenke, 1963, orig. Hook & Hastings, 1903; tracker, II/14) and a Hammond. Lessons were soon moved to Grace Episcopal Church (Saville Sovereign; II/25 stops). He is the major influence on my playing and my love of church music.

Church music has been the focus of my study and work. I played my first church services in 1971 at Bethesda Lutheran Church (Kilgen, ca. 1910; II/4). I had a fairly large two-manual Baldwin for practice at home, too. The organ was somewhat in disrepair and hadn't been tuned in perhaps 15 years. Walter Wilson & Assoc., from Colorado, did the major service and tuning. It was an adventure for a 13-year-old to learn hands on about the inner workings of an electro-pneumatic organ. The change in the instrument was remarkable. I became a member-at-large of the AGO while in Hot Springs. This was during the time that members had to be 'proposed' via two letters of recommendation.

During my time at UW, I was the principal organist at the Lutheran Campus Center (Reuter; II/8) and a sub at Trinity Lutheran Church (Walcker; tracker, II/9). UW's concert hall also has a Walcker (tracker; III/59). My first 'big' organist position was as assistant organist-choirmaster at St Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral (Morel & Assocs., 1988, originally E. M. Skinner, 1926; IV/51). My grandmother had been a choirmaster at St Matthew's, too. Then organist-choirmaster, Charles Clarke, was responsible for beginning the restoration of the organ. Substantial changes had been made during Gerhard Krapf's tenure. My first position on my own as organist-choirmaster was at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Casper, Wyo., (Reuter, 1963; II/9).

My sojourn in Kansas began as a summer substitute at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Liberal (Reuter, 1968; II/11). At the University of Kansas, where I changed majors from organ performance to music history, I had

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## Getting to Know You (cont. from page 4) - James Mackay, RRVAGO Secretary

instruments at my disposal in the recital hall (Reuter, 1968; III/71) and Trinity Episcopal Church (Reuter, 1956; II/22). After moving just down the road to Topeka, I was appointed assistant organist-choirmaster at St David's Episcopal Church (Wolff, 1980; tracker, II/23). I also sang in the choir at Grace Episcopal Cathedral (Schantz, 1978; IV/63) where I was a summer sub and practiced.

In 1988, I moved to the Red River Valley. I've held several positions over the last 25 years: St John's Episcopal Church, Moorhead (Baldwin; II/22 stops); St Andrew's Lutheran Church, West Fargo (Baldwin; II/18 stops); St Stephen's Episcopal Church (Hammond); Nativity Roman Catholic Church (Johnson). Since 2005, I've been parish organist at St Stephen's Episcopal Church (Johannus; II/34 stops). One of my favourite instruments in the RRV is at the Centrum of Concordia College (Holtkamp, 1977; I/11).

Though not the most interesting bio for a general audience, this newsletter's audience speaks in ranks and stops and divisions. Of the instruments I've been privileged to play over the years, the Skinner, the Schantz, and the Wolff are the most memorable. The Skinner was ... a Skinner. That some of the installation had been supervised by E. M. Skinner himself made it even more memorable. The Schantz and the space of Grace Cathedral are a perfect match, one enhancing the other. Its celestes are remarkable as is the Trompette-en-chamade, but its English Horn is perhaps the most beautiful stop I've heard. The Wolff was warm and articulate and responsive with buzzy reeds. Both the Skinner and Schantz are now rebuilt and in fine condition. The Wolff was destroyed by an arson fire. However, I think pride of place will always go to the Saville Sovereign digital and its Trompeta Real 8' which made quite an impression on sixth grader some 41 years ago.

When not 'riding the pine' (as one organist I know refers to organ-bench-related work), I enjoy listening to music, coffee shops, collecting fountain pens, and playing with my cat, Mister Hedwig. Most significantly, I'm learning how to be a married person (5 August 2013) after having been perpetually single.

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## RRVAGO Sub-List

The following RRVAGO members have indicated availability for substituting for area organists when needed:

Jay Hershberger	(701) 367-2896
Jean Roberts	(218) 303-0873
Nate Amundson	(507) 358-8642
Susan Clambey	(218) 233-6652, (218) 443-0801
James Mackay	(701) 235-0406, (701) 540-1870, (701) 232-2076
Carolyn Hensrud	(701) 280-2189
Sally Harmon	(701) 232-6711 (Handbells)
Mavis Tjon	(701) 235-8591
Tom Thoreson	(701) 842-8837
Michael Olson	(701) 235-4567 ext. 135

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## Local Musicians' Pipe Organ Tour Schedules 4 Performances in Western ND

Fargo-based production company, Prairie Airwaves, announces the **"Bach on the Bakken"** pipe organ tour, scheduled for stops in four western North Dakota cities, September 12<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. The concerts will feature Bill Tweten, principal organist at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo. Many residents of the state are familiar with Tweten's enthusiastic and energetic playing style through his weekly appearances on the Hour of Worship telecast, as seen every Sunday morning, (11 AM CT, 10 MTN) on the western ND ABC television network. Although Tweten will be playing some of Bach's more famous pipe organ pieces like "Toccata in D Minor" and "Prelude and Fugue", the audience needn't worry about sitting through an evening of long drawn out organ solos. Tweten says, "I've even edited a few of the pieces to make them more digestible to a general audience, and we want to make sure the audience enjoys a fast-paced event of great music while having fun at the same time."

Pianist and Director of Music at Messiah, Jim Gurney, will join Bill for a number of piano/organ duets of popular hymns and folk tunes. Even though the show is centered around Bach's organ music, Jim and Bill will also perform patriotic numbers, marches, some popular music and even lead an audience sing-along or two. Producer, Merrill Piepkorn, (Dakota Air: The Radio Show/Radio Stars Band), will join the tour as host, adding his own unique brand of humor and emceeing skills to the event.

The **"Bach on the Bakken"** tour stops are as follows:

Bismarck: Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>-7:30 PM: Trinity Lutheran Church, 502 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dickinson: Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>-7:00 PM: St. John Lutheran Church, 146 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Crosby: Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>-7:00 PM: Concordia Lutheran Church, 301 South Main St.  
Minot: Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>-2:00 PM: 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, 120 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW

Piepkorn, also a member of Messiah Lutheran, says, "Bill Tweten's organ playing is so popular, that worshippers stay after the service just to enjoy his postlude, enjoying a special "mini-concert" every Sunday. We are all looking forward to the tour...meeting old friends and making new ones." Tweten adds, "I'm really looking forward to playing some of the finest pipe organ music ever composed on some of the state's finest pipe organs, and I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy this unique event".

The **"Bach on the Bakken"** pipe organ tour is sponsored by the North Dakota Council on the Arts, The Messiah Lutheran Hour of Worship, The Western ND Synod of the ELCA and the four host churches. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no admission charge but a free will offering will be accepted.

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## 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](http://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, Beginning in September 2013

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](mailto:1stcongregationalucc@gmail.com).

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## Composers Corner—Leon Boellmann

Leon Boellmann (1862-1897) was a French composer of Alsatian origin, known for a small number of compositions for organ. Boellmann was born in Ensisheim, Haut-Rhin, the son of a pharmacist. In 1871, at the age of nine, he entered the Ecole de Musique Classique et Religieuse in Paris, where he studied with its director, Gustave Lefevre, and with Eugene Gigout. Boellmann there won first prizes in piano, organ, counterpoint, fugue, plainsong, and composition. After his graduation in 1881, Boellmann was hired as "organist de chœur" at the Church of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris, and six years later he became cantor and "organist titulaire", a position he held until his early death, probably from tuberculosis.

In 1885, Boellmann married Louise, the daughter of Gustave Lefevre and the niece of Eugene Gigout, into whose house the couple moved. (Having no children of his own, Gigout adopted Boellmann.) Boellmann then taught in Gigout's school of organ playing and improvisation.

As a favored student of Gigout, Boellmann moved in the best circles of the French musical world, and as a pleasing personality, he made friends of many artists and was able to give concerts both in Paris and the provinces. Boellmann became known as "a dedicated teacher, trenchant critic, gifted composer and successful performer...who coaxed pleasing sounds out of recalcitrant instruments." Boellmann also wrote musical criticism for *L'art musical* under the pseudonym "Le Reverend Pere Leon" and "un Garçon de la sale Pleyel."

Boellmann died in 1897, aged only 35. After the death of his wife the following year, Gigout reared their three orphans, one of whom, Marie-Louise Boellmann-Gigout, (1891-1977) became a noted organ teacher in her own right.

During the sixteen years of his professional life, Boellmann composed about 160 pieces in all genres. Faithful to the style of Franck and an admirer of Saint-Saens, Boellmann yet exhibits a turn-of-the-century Post-romantic esthetic, which especially in his organ works, demonstrated "remarkable sonorities." His best-known composition is *Suite Gothique* (1895), now a staple of the organ repertoire, especially its concluding Toccata, a piece "of moderate difficulty but brilliant effect," with a dramatic minor theme and a rhythmic emphasis that made it popular even in Boellmann's own day. Boellmann also wrote motets and art songs, works for piano, a symphony, works for cello and orchestra and for organ and orchestra, a cello sonata (dedicated to Jules Delsart), and other chamber works.

-From Wikipedia-

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## Guest Recitalists at First Lutheran Church for Wednesday Organ Recitals

Wednesday, September 18—Nate Koppenhaver, a student of Michael Olson, will be playing Sonata No. 1 in D Minor by Alexandre Guilmant.

Wednesday, September 25—Jeffrey Patry, Director of Music and Organist at Church of the Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale, MN will play a variety of organ pieces.

Recitals begin at 12:45 PM in the First Lutheran Church sanctuary. The church is located on Broadway between 6th and 7th Avenues in downtown Fargo.

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## **Support the AGO Annual Fund**

From National Headquarters -

If you are among the ranks of those who have already sent a gift to the AGO this year, thank you! If you have not, please take a moment to do so. You might wish to honor an inspiring teacher or devoted friend, or remember a loved one with a memorial gift.

Each year, the AGO Annual Fund supports all the Guild's educational activities from Pipe Organ Encounters to professional certification. It also provides seed money to chapters hosting regional and national conventions and supports a growing number of technology and membership development initiatives.

Gifts 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 demonstrate to foundations and other funding sources that a growing number of individuals believe in the work that we do.

No gift is too small; no gift is too large. Please demonstrate your support for the American Guild of Organists by making a gift today. You will be glad you did.

If you are unable to make a gift at this time, please consider making a deferred gift through the Clarence Dickinson Society for Planned Giving, or by becoming a Lifetime Member. You can always enjoy tax savings through our Vehicle Donation Program. For further information please call (212) 870-2311 (Ext. 4308) or e-mail [fathurman@agohq.org](mailto:fathurman@agohq.org).

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## **Fargo Theatre Hosting Noon Organ Concerts**

Free noon organ concerts on the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fargo Theatre continue on September 18 and 25. Lance E. Johnson, who has been the house organist for the past 40 years, will perform and will also play audience requests.

The theatre's Might 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.

The organ at the Fargo Theatre will also be featured as one of the "hands on" instruments on the AGO Organ Crawl on September 21 at 4:15 PM as part of a special weekend with MRP "Pipedreams" Host, Michael Barone.

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### **|| Play in the Christmas Carol Sing-Along!**

|| If you are interested in playing a carol in the upcoming Christmas Carol Sing-Along at First Lutheran Church in Fargo on Monday evening, December 9 at 7:00 PM, please let Michael Olson know at your convenience by email at [molson@flcfargo.org](mailto:molson@flcfargo.org) or call him at church at (701) 235-4567 ext. 135.

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### **|| On a Lighter Note...**

|| "Nearer My God to Thee"

|| By Tom Richardson

|| A chime event that brought a whole town to its knees happened in a small village in the mountains of western Maryland. A vicious winter blizzard had taken over the town on one late November evening. Snow accumulated to more than three feet and was drifted by biting, howling winds. At some point, after the shivering townsfolk had taken refuge in their beds under layers of quilts, they were treated to an awe-filled thunder and lightning storm that illuminated the skies and made the snow shine blue! This electricity display was short-lived, but in its duration, the lightning struck a church tower that housed electronic chimes. The electric jolt brought the chimes to life, and they sounded out across the town playing "Nearer My God to Thee" as villagers climbed from their warm beds and fell to their knees believing that this was surely the "Second Coming"!

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### **|| Free Choral Music Available from St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

|| As many of you are aware, St. Mark's Lutheran Church in downtown Fargo has decided to sell their building and move over to share space at Elim Lutheran, one block to the west. Because of this transition, St. Marks' organist and choir director, Alpha Roeszler, has sorted through a lot of music from their library that is no longer suited to their small choir.

|| Choir directors are welcome to come to the church and look through the music that is left. There are three boxes of anthems and a table full of Cantatas and Musicals. All are free.

|| The church will be closed as of this Friday, September 13th, but Alpha is available to meet anyone interested and she will open the church so you can browse through the music. She can be reached at (701) 234-9449 or (701) 799-2465, or email at [aroeszler@i29.net](mailto:aroeszler@i29.net).

|| The church is located at 670 4th Avenue N., Fargo, ND and officially changes hands October 15th, so the sooner the better!



### Upcoming Events

***Saturday, September 21, 2013***

**"Organ Crawl"**

First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, 1:15 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Moorhead, 2:15 PM

Bethesda Lutheran, Moorhead, 3:15 PM

Fargo Theatre, Fargo, 4:15 PM

***Sunday, September 22, 2013, 4:00 PM***

**"Celestial Sounds—Those Fabulous French",**

Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, Fargo

(Rescheduled following April 14 cancellation due to a SNOWSTORM!)

***Monday, December 9, 2013, 7:00 PM***

**"Christmas Carol Sing-Along"**

First Lutheran Church, Fargo

### Contact Information

American Guild of Organists

Red River Valley Chapter

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