



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 30, Number 4

Dec/Jan/Feb
2016-2017

Message From the Dean

Dear RRVAGO Members and Organ Enthusiasts alike -

This amazingly warm fall weather has already meant we have been given a "pass" for an easier winter here in the Valley. Each warm day seems like an incredible gift! I also want all our members to be a gift to one another — join in the events coming — and one of the great ways to get to know one another better is to come to our First Friday Lunches at noon at the Fry'n Pan on Main Avenue in Fargo. We gather to visit and hear stories and fellowship together. Please come and join in!

Our annual Christmas Hymn Sing will be held on December 5th at First Presbyterian Church, downtown Fargo. A great way to kick off the Advent Season and sing our favorite Christmas hymns with gusto! Then on March 19th the Guild is coming together to tour St. Anne and Joachim Catholic Cathedral—both to enjoy the art and architecture and then to hear about and "play" the three manual pipe organ that was recently added to the sanctuary. Bring your music and shoes and for some of us "special glasses"! That kicks off at 4:00 and goes to around 6:00.

Between Master Chorale's Christmas Recitals, the Choral

Artists, Fargo Theater's noon programs during the holidays, Concordia Christmas Concerts and student recitals, church choral concerts, and the like — there is every reason to have a blessed and music filled Christmas.

Please look over other events listed in the Pipeline — and write them down on your calendar or set them on your smart phone calendar. We are all busy during the holidays with our own churches and programs, but do take time to recharge YOUR batteries and enjoy being in the audience and taking in the music of the Season!

Hope to see you all "around" soon.

Bill Tweten

RRV AGO Chapter Dean

First Friday Luncheon

Who Everyone is Welcome!

When First Friday of the Month at Noon

Where Fry'n Pan
302 Main Ave, Fargo

Chapter Officers

Dean: Bill Tweten

Sub-Dean: Sally Harmon

Secretary: Brad Steem

Treasurer: Brad Steem

Board Members at Large

2016: Andrew Steinberg

2017: Alpha Roeszler

2018: Jean Hellner

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting September 13, 2016

Members present: Bill Tweten, Bradley Steen, Sally Harmon, Jean Hellner, Jim Gurney

The Minutes were approved as printed from the August meeting.

Treasurer reports the balance in checking as \$3906.43 with 18 paid members.

Brad has been working with Reid Froiland to get dual membership, which is complicated by Reid's home chapter not being a member on ONCARD.

About 7 of our RRV chapter members attended the September 10th workshop at Concordia. Those who attended reported that the workshops were well presented and interesting. We would support any efforts to repeat this type of workshop in the future. Our AGO table had pamphlets which Bill printed from AGO National's website. Membership information was included.

Discussion on the potential October 16 Organ Crawl resulted in deciding NOT to pursue this date. Bradley will check into March 12 or 19 as possible dates for RRV chapter to have a tour of St. Anne & Joachim with time to see the artwork, hands-on-time at the organ, some refreshments and followed by our monthly AGO board meeting while we are there. Event time would be in the afternoon, perhaps 3 or 4pm.

The Quimby Competition for Young Organists will be held between Feb and April of 2017. Bill will check with Peggy Johnson to see if there are any local organ students who will be competing. If so, we would like to support them with a small scholarship for their travel. We declined to arrange for our local chapter to be a competition venue. There are too many costs associated, from bringing in judges/housing them/and paying for prizes for competitors.

Jean Hellner reported on her venture into the archives

at MSUM. She said there is quite a lot of material, and it is well cared for and organized. Jean will write an article for the next Pipeline with some of the interesting information she has uncovered about RRV/AGO's history. She has not checked with NDSU for their archives at this time. She also mentioned some good promotional ideas that have come from her research. For example, 2017 is the 500 year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Maybe we could have "An Ecumenical Concert" to celebrate? She also mentioned that we could arrange for the chapter's Portativ organ to be present at the Petting Zoo during Classical Music Weekend in early June 2017. She read the article which told about the grant RRV had received to pay for the portative back in the 80's. Having young children get a chance to see organ pipes and try them would be good publicity for our group and for pipe organs in general. Our portative is at Lance Johnson's shop for repairs.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sally Harmon, Sub-Dean

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting November 8, 2016

Location: Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

Members Present: Tweten, Steen, Harmon, Roeszler, Hellner

Members Absent: Steinberg

Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

There was no quorum and no meeting in October.

Tweten appointed Bradley Steen as Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: \$4,165.43 in RRVAGO Checking Account. Petty Cash of \$52.51 and Gift of \$74.51 will be deposited to Checking Account.

Membership Report: Nineteen (19) paid members—(regular 11, special 5, student 1, friend 1, dual 1).

Christmas Carol Singalong on December 5, 7:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, benefitting the Food Pantry.

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting November 8, 2016 (continued from Page 2)

Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo, Tour and Time at Organ on Sunday, March 19, 2017, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

First Friday Lunch Gathering at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant on Main Avenue in downtown Fargo on Friday, December 2, at 12 Noon.

December Board Meeting will take place on Friday, December 2, 11:00 am, at the Fryn' Pan Restaurant on Main Avenue in downtown Fargo, immediately before the First Friday Lunch Gathering which follows at noon.

Meeting was adjourned.

Bradley J. Steen, Secretary

Greetings from the National Headquarters of the AGO

On Giving Tuesday, November 29, a national day of philanthropy, we ask that you consider making a gift to the Guild. We will apply your gift to the area of the Guild that is most meaningful to you. For example, you can choose to support our Annual Fund, specific educational programs like Pipe Organ Encounters or the Certification program, our conventions, our chapters, or our Endowment.

Please know that a gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated. You can designate your tax-deductible gift in honor of a loved one, a colleague, a student, or a teacher. We invite you to [make your gift online at ago.org](http://makeyourgiftonline.at.ago.org), or you can call us at 212-870-2310, during business hours from 9-5 Eastern time on any weekday. If you have already made a gift to the AGO this year, please accept our deepest thanks.

In the weeks ahead, concert halls and houses of worship will be filled with the sound of the King of Instruments, more so than during any other time of the year. Through our collective efforts, we will be accomplishing the mission of the Guild to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

Thank you for all that you do for the Guild, for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Your gift will make a positive impact by helping our members, by strengthening our chapters, and by supporting our national organization.

On behalf of the AGO National Council and Headquarters staff, we send best wishes for a blessed holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bedford, AAGO, ChM
President

James E. Thomashower
Executive Director

Fargo Theatre Hosts Noontime Christmas Concerts

Bring non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry and come and hear the mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ at the Fargo Theater on Broadway in downtown Fargo. Several area organists will play selections for the Christmas season beginning Monday, December 12 at 12 noon. Watch the Forum for schedule details.

RRV AGO member Michael Olson will be playing the first concert.

NDSU Presents Messiah at First Lutheran Church in Fargo

NDSU will present portions of Messiah by Handel this year at First Lutheran Church at 6th and Broadway in Fargo. There will be two concerts — at 7:30 PM on Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3. Tickets are being sold through the NDSU Box Office. Come and enjoy this timeless classic!!

Plains Art Museum Hosts Holiday Concerts

Enjoy music from the area's best musicians (including some RRVAGO members) over your lunch hour. Programs will be presented admission-free from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm daily on Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 5-8, and Dec. 12-15. Special gallery admissions offered.

A Christmas Carol Ring and Sing-Along



Presented by F-M Area Music Club
and the
Red River Valley Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists

Featuring BEbbissimo Handbell Choir,
Music Club Notables Women's Chorus,
And Organists from the RRVC - AGO
Donations will go to the Food Pantry & Music Scholarships

7:00 PM
Monday, December 5, 2016
First Presbyterian Church
650 2nd Avenue North Fargo

IMPORTANT UPDATE from AGO HQ on FTC Settlement Agreement

November 11, 2016

Dear AGO Leader:

As you know, the AGO has been negotiating for many months with the Federal Trade Commission to settle a complaint that the FTC initiated in 2015 alleging that the Guild may be violating Federal antitrust laws. Our negotiations with the Federal Trade Commission have now concluded, and with the approval of the National Council we are poised to execute a Settlement Agreement with the FTC thereby avoiding litigation of their complaint in Federal Court. This agreement prescribes many steps that the Guild must undertake. Among them are discontinuing the publication of our salary guidelines and model contract provisions and removing them from our website.

AGO National Headquarters anticipates discontinuing all circulation of salary guidelines and model contract provisions as of Wednesday, November 16. On that date, all chapters need to begin the process of compliance as well. Salary guidelines and model contract provisions from national and all local variations thereof that your chapter has promulgated should be removed from your chapter website, newsletter, or other publications, and you must no longer reference them or circulate them to AGO members, churches, or the public.

We will be sending all AGO leaders many more details about the terms of the settlement in the weeks to come but we want to give you advance notice of the imminent execution of the agreement so that you can begin to plan for it and share the news with your members.

Best regards,

Michael Bedford
President

James E. Thomashower
Executive Director

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YOU ARE INVITED to spend your holidays with 1st Presbyterian Church, 650 2nd Ave. N., Fargo. Join us on Sunday evening, December 11 at 6:30 pm for *Carols by Candlelight*. This year's theme is Gift of Peace and will feature all of the church's vocal and instrumental ensembles and congregational carol-singing in a celebration of word and seasonal music. Refreshments follow accompanied by Tyler Engberg playing seasonal piano music.

On Christmas Eve we will celebrate Christ's nativity in worship together at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. The 4:00 pm service on Saturday features the bright, festive premiere of *A Dove's Tale, from Ruffled to Rejoicing*, a commissioned work by the talented Dr. David Fandrich, former Director of Music. Included will be a small orchestra, handbells, choir and characters from the Luke 2 gospel in a musical re-telling of the beloved Christmas Story. It is a memorial gift from the Kenien family, honoring Dr. Al Kenien, who was a longtime member of 1st Presbyterian, sang in the choir, and loved and worked with small children.

The 7:00 pm service will be a more reflective service of *Nine Lessons and Carols*, just the thing you may need to calm your spirit and prepare for the arrival of the Prince of Peace. Plan to make one or both distinct worship experiences a part of your personal holiday tradition.

Notes from the North Central Regional Newsletter, November 2016

The North Central AGOYO (AGO Young Organists) will be sponsoring a composition competition for those composers under the age of 30. Watch for information to be coming soon on both the national and regional convention pages. The winning compositions will be performed at our regional convention this coming summer. If you know of young composers who might be interested, please share this information with them. There are considerable prizes for the winners!

Don't forget to send your program information to the TAO. It is a great way to highlight events going on in our region and share program ideas with other chapters or find ideas for your own program year. Any of your members can send this information into the TAO—it doesn't have to be the dean.

We have four chapters hosting local Quimby/RVCO competitions: Milwaukee, Lincoln, Wichita, and the Twin Cities. If you know of young people who should be competing, please encourage them and let them know about these sites. More specific information can be found on the national webpage. Remember that the winners from these four sites will compete at our regional convention this summer.

Our regional convention will be hosted by the River Valley Chapter (Iowa) June 19-22, 2017 with events in both Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. We hope to see many of our regional members there. Check out the listing of organs, performers, and workshop presenters at rivervalleyago.org. If our chapter would like to consider giving a financial gift by sponsoring a workshop or by advertising in the program book, please contact the convention chair, Mark Baumann, at mmbaumann@msn.com. Information about registering for the convention will be coming soon!

Here is more exciting news for our region: the University of Kansas will be hosting the 2017 National Pedagogy Conference October 18-21. These pedagogy conferences are not just for teachers! The theme is Organ and Improvisation Study in the French Conservatory System. Just a few of the performers who will be included are Michel Boulevard, Vincent Dubois, and Olivier Latry. It should be a wonderful event!

Our North Central Regional Councillor Marilyn Schempp will be traveling with the Augustana College Choir to Germany and Italy January 6-23 on their interim tour and will have the opportunity to accompany them on the organ.

Notes from the North Central Regional Newsletter November 2016 by Marilyn Schempp, North Central Regional Councillor

Publishing News and Events of Interest in the PIPELINE

The PIPELINE is always looking for information about events and/or performances that would be of interest to our RRVAGO members. If you are aware of (or involved in) an event that you would like to invite our members to, even though it is not an RRVAGO-sponsored event, please feel free to pass information regarding the event on to Ruth Discher at discherjr@cableone.net or Alpha Roeszler at aroeszler@i29.net for publication in the quarterly PIPELINE. We are fortunate to have so much rich and inspiring talent available within our community. We are eager to share this information as an encouragement to all who participate.

The History of the Red River Valley Chapter of the AGO

Notes from the Past

Bootlegging and brothels, gambling and guns, saloons and sporting houses dotted the Fargo-Moorhead landscape throughout the 1870s and 1880s. But following the cacophonous chaos of these two fledgling towns that permeated those decades and which characterized many frontier settlements in the western United States during the last decades of the nineteenth century, a different kind of culture emerged in the Fargo-Moorhead area in the 1890s. In 1894, the Fargo-Moorhead Musical Club was founded, a mere twenty-three years after both Fargo and Moorhead had been established by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1871, and from this club emerged the ancestor of today's Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO): the Pipe Organ Group.

Concerted efforts to promote respectable culture and education in these towns came from a number of venues in the 1880s and 1890s. Among several professional local organizations and ensembles such as the Union Orchestra and the Union Band, both of which were active by 1889, the Fargo Musical Club was one of the most important for the cultivation of the pipe organ. Its Pipe Organ Group proved to be the most important and enduring for the king of instruments, and we still enjoy the hard work and dedication of this group's pioneering performers and patrons today.

Established in approximately 1895, the ten to fifteen members of the Pipe Organ Group met monthly. Their long-term goal was to provide quality organ music and educational programs in the Red River Valley. Members sponsored Maundy Thursday programs, recitals, musicales, and an annual Christmas festival, which the Red River Valley Chapter of the AGO continues to this day.

Indeed, the Christmas festival was so important to the Pipe Organ Group and to the Fargo-Moorhead community that a free-will offering was collected to provide gifts to charities and civic organizations. Members of the Pipe Organ Group paid the church at which the festival was held \$10 for use of the facility, and they paid the church's janitor \$1 for his services.

Given the civic-minded nature of both the Pipe Organ Group and the Fargo Musical Club, music education and development proved to be central to these organizations' missions and goals. The Pipe Organ Group in particular offered monthly programs. Some of the topics addressed were: current and past American organs and organists; current events in classical music; choral conducting; Gregorian chant; issues involving worship; Anglican liturgy; and book reviews, most notably on H. V. Milligan's *Best Loved Hymns & Prayers of the American People*. Patriotism was no stranger to this organization either. During World War II the Pipe Organ Group used its extra funds to purchase savings bonds.

Since many of the Pipe Organ Group's interests and activities involved promotion of the instrument and its music on both the regional and national levels it seemed inevitable that this estimable organization would formally reorganize on the national level. In September 1945, the Pipe Organ Group became a chapter of the national AGO. To move from a significant regional organization to a chapter at the national level may not be as surprising as it seems at first: this wonderful regional organization from which our current chapter emerged assiduously concerned itself with national interests and goals by promoting seminal organ music, composers, and performers as does the chapter we cherish today.

Jean Marie Hellner, RRVAGO Member

Composer's Corner— Louis-Claude Daquin (July 4, 1694-June 15, 1772)

Louis-Claude Daquin (or D'Aquino, d'Aquin, d'Acquin) was a French composer of Jewish ancestry, writing in the Baroque and Galant styles. He was a virtuoso organist and harpsichordist.

Daquin was born in Paris into a prominent family of intellectuals who had migrated from Italy, where his great-great-grandfather took the name D'Aquino after converting to Catholicism in the town of Aquino. Louis-Claude's parents were Claude Daquin, a painter, and Anne Tiersant, a grand-niece of Rabelais, the great French renaissance writer of world literature. One of Louis-Claude's grand-uncles was a professor of Hebrew at the College de France, and another was the principal physician of King Louis XIV.

Daquin was a musical child prodigy. He was the godson of prominent harpsichordist and composer Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, who was his first musical tutor. Louis-Claude demonstrated a precocious talent from an early age, so much so that at the age of six he was invited to perform on harpsichord for King Louis XIV, an event which propelled his fame across France. It was around this time that he began studying with Louis Marchand, himself a child prodigy and one of the most prominent virtuoso organ players of his day.

Under Marchand, his musical tuition accelerated so much that by the time he was eight he had conducted a performance of his own composition, the choral work *Beatus vir*, at Sainte-Chapelle in Paris. Four years later he was appointed to his first job as a professional organist at Petit St. Antoine convent, where his youthful virtuosity was a major draw in bringing more people to attend services simply for the opportunity to hear him play.

With no shortage of employment offers, Daquin was able to amass a comfortable fortune compared to other musicians of the day. In 1722 he married Denise-Therese Quirot with whom he had one child, Pierre-Louis Daquin de Chateaulion.

Louis-Claude Daquin never lacked for work as an organist. In 1727, Daquin won a great victory by securing the position as organist at St. Paul Cathedral in Paris, where he would continue to play for the rest of his life. He was notably competing with the arguable more famous Jean-Philippe Rameau for the position, and the selection of Daquin was a major vindication for his career. In 1732 Louis-Claude added to his post with an appointment as organist at Eglise des Cordeliers where he replaced his teacher Louis Marchand, and seven years later he succeeded Jean-Francois Dandrieu as the organists of the Chapelle Royale, meaning he was now playing for King Louis XV and the rest of the royal court on a regular basis. Perhaps because of Daquin's reputation by this point, no one else competed for the post.

Even after reaching the pinnacle of his career, holding several simultaneous posts, Daquin continued to receive and accept offers from all over France, adding to what must have already been an extremely busy schedule. In 1755 he became one of the four organists at Notre Dame Cathedral where, like the others, he worked on a seasonal basis. He also regularly played at the Palais des Tuileries between 1749 and 1754, and played several times at the Concerts Francais in 1728 and 1729. Eventually he did lighten the workload slightly by resigning his job at the Chapelle Royal, which allowed the younger Armand-Louis

|| **Composer's Corner—(continued from Page 8)**

|| Couperin to step into his role.

|| Louis-Claude Daquin was by reputation a dazzling performer at the keyboard, and was the organist of his day in mid-eighteenth century Paris. He was known for his "unfaltering precision and evenness" at both the harpsichord and organ. Although he wrote vocal, choral, and orchestral music — mostly for church services — all that survived were two books of keyboard works. He was a celebrated improviser, but he also wrote widely for publication, his most famous composition is the twittering bird piece *Le Coucou*. Christmastime always brings performances particularly in France of his *Noels pour l'orgue* from his *Nouveau livre de Noels*. It dates from around 1740 and is a standard in the French organ repertoire.

|| The noels lend themselves best to performance on the organ where the rounded tone throughout the registers and stops convey the warmth and rustic qualities of the music with a gentleness and simplicity that are perfectly in keeping with the idea of shepherds and peasants celebrating the season. Each of the noels is a miniature set of variations, based on tunes that were well-known in Daquin's day. They usually become more ornamented as they progress and the varied voices of the organ become part of the variation technique. Two of the most popular noels, No. 8 *Noel Etranger* and No. 10 *Noel Grand jeu en Duo* are cheery, light dances. No. 12 *Noel Suisse* is also a jig-like dance. It and others that are also in minor key — usually a mode associated with more melancholy feelings — still manage to impart a sense of awe and joy in the season. The quieter ones, such as No. 2 and No. 7, are songlike and peaceful. No. 9, *Noel sur les Flutes*, uses the airy sound of the stops very charmingly. To match the instrument to the music and to recognize both the similarities and differences between each noel will show exactly why the complete set of noels holds an important place in the organ and holiday repertoires.

|| *Excerpts taken from Wikipedia, Primephonic, Artist Biography by James Reel, and AllMusic Review by Patsy Morita*

|| **Concerts at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church**

|| The following programs will be presented during the Christmas season at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church located at 5202 25th Street South, Fargo:

|| **Shanley Candlelight Christmas Concerts**

|| Sunday, December 4, 7:00 pm and Monday, December 5, 7:00 pm.

|| **Sts. Anne & Joachim Church Choir and Handbell Christmas Concert**

|| Sunday, December 18, 7:00 pm

|| **Solemn Vespers for Advent**

|| Sundays, November 27, December 4, 11, and 18 at 5:00 pm.



Upcoming Events

December 5, 2016, 7:00 PM

Annual Christmas Ring and Singalong
RRVAGO Organists, BELLisimo, FMAMC
Noteables combined concert.
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND

March 19, 2017, 4:00 PM

Architecture and "Hands-on" Organ Tour
St. Anne and Joachim Catholic Cathedral,
Fargo, ND

May 2017

RRVAGO Chapter Potluck and Music Exchange

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Publication Title: *Pipeline*
Issue Date: Dec/Jan/Feb/ 2016-2017
Statement of Frequency: Quarterly
Editors: Alpha Roeszler and Ruth Discher

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