



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

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2017

Message From the Dean

I have been the new dean of the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists since July 1—so it's been about two months as I write to you on Friday, August 25. I reflect upon the meeting we had in the Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo on Tuesday evening, May 16 when we discussed the future of the chapter. After a wonderful potluck meal, we "got down to business" and had a conference call with Marilyn Schempp, the North Central Regional Councillor of AGO. We discussed many things, and it was a very good, productive meeting. At the end of the evening, we decided to keep our chapter intact and to plan several activities for the coming season.

On Saturday, September 9, we will have a presence at the Concordia music workshop (their second annual event—last year's event was wonderful, for those of you who were and weren't there). I have been in contact with Peggy Johnson, organ instructor at Concordia, who has allowed us to have a table to promote our upcoming activities and to recruit new members to our organization.

I don't know the exact date for the December event, but I'm guessing that it will be on Monday evening December 4 (time TBA) at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. This will be our annual Christmas Carol Sing in conjunction with the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club and their Noteables choir and perhaps a bell choir as well. This is always a very fun event, and you'll want to stay tuned as some of you may be asked to play a Christmas carol as part of the event!

In February, Concordia will be hosting David Cherwien, one of the greatest church musicians in the Twin Cities (and the nation, for that matter). There will be a hymn festival at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead on Friday evening, February 9, and a master class at First Lutheran in Fargo on Saturday morning, February 10. More information will be forthcoming concerning these events, but get them on your calendar now!. And in the spring of 2018, we will have our annual used music exchange and potluck supper, details of which will be forthcoming.

There will be other music offerings at various churches which will be publicized throughout the year. And if you have any events at your church that you want others to attend, please contact Ruth Discher and she'll make sure to publicize your events. This is a very captive audience for wanting to attend musical events of all kinds.

Besides serving as the dean of this chapter, I also wear another hat—North Dakota Convener for AGO. In years past, we have had four chapters in North Dakota. The chapters in Minot and Bismarck are currently not in existence. I would love to see an AGO presence in the western part of our state once again if it is possible. I have a very good friend who's a church musician at one of the ELCA churches in Bismarck, so I'm going to see if there might be interest in getting a chapter re-started in Bismarck. I remember about twenty years ago when several people were super-excited about getting a chapter started out there—and then the

(Continued on Page 2)

First Friday Luncheon has been moved to Friday, September 8 due to the holiday weekend. Regular schedule will continue in October.

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

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enthusiasm waned over time.

As the North Dakota Convener, one thing I've done this summer is to make two trips to Grand Forks to meet with members of the Northern Valley Chapter as we have been working to get programming going for them. We last met on Wednesday evening, August 23. Dates and times and venues are still being worked out, but we'll let you know when these events take place. Maybe a road trip up north will be in order for some of us down south!

I've also included the members of the Northern Valley Chapter on our PIPELINE list, so they are now receiving our newsletters so both chapters can keep in contact with each other. We were all one chapter back in the day, and became two chapters back in the early 1990s or so. We're not all that far apart geographically, and we want to promote organ and choral music throughout the Red River Valley and the surrounding areas.

Both chapters could definitely benefit from more people to come and find out what we're all about and to take part in our activities. If you know of someone who should be a part of either chapter, let me know and we'll get them signed up!

We need the AGO and the AGO needs each of us. The conventions are wonderful. George French and I attended the regional convention in June down in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The national AGO convention next summer will be in Kansas City, which is a very easy drive for all of us—head south on I-29 because that interstate ends, ironically, in Kansas City! And we learned that the 2019 regional AGO convention will be in Milwaukee. Before I moved to Fargo back in 1985, I served a church in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin—about halfway between Madison and Milwaukee. I loved going to Milwaukee on occasion—what a great city!!

AGO has meant so much to me for so many years that I want others to feel my passion for this organization and how it can help us as church musicians.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or ideas as to how our organization can be a vital force in these most interesting times in which we live.

Sincerely and musically,
Michael Olson
Minister of Music, First Lutheran Church, Fargo
Dean, Red River Valley Chapter, AGO
North Dakota Convener, American Guild of Organists

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting May 16, 2017

Location: First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND
Members Present: Susan Clambey, Ruth Discher, Sally Harmon, Michael Olson, Alpha Roeszler, Bradley Steen, Ruth Strawn, Robyn Vinje, Peggy Johnson, Paul Donner, Jim Gurney

Minutes from March 2017 meeting were previously emailed to all members.

The chapter gathered for a potluck dinner and music exchange.

It was determined that a quorum of the membership was present for voting purposes.

Treasurers Report: \$4,231.68 in RRVAGO Checking Account.

Membership Report: Eighteen (18) paid members—(regular 11, special 5, friend 1, dual 1, student 0).

Marilyn Schempp, Regional Councillor for the North Central Region of the American Guild of Organists joined us by way of telephone.

Michael Olson, our District Convener for the state of North Dakota for the American Guild of Organists was present.

The significant business of the evening's chapter meeting was the immediate short-term viability of The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. There was a discussion on the challenges facing the chapter as well as potential solutions to these challenges. One of the options to be considered was voting to disband the chapter.

Challenges: Perceived high membership costs; online protocol for membership renewals difficult for some; growing the membership; member fatigue; changing tastes in church music; declining interest in studying music and organ in colleges and universities.

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Solutions: More aggressive recruiting of potential new members to join and current members to renew their memberships; inviting current members to attend chapter meetings and events; implement membership incentives to young people and students; more aggressive use of social media to publicize chapter activities; collaborate with other arts organizations and churches to sponsor and promote arts activities of mutual interest and to the community at large; pursue outreach with the Northern Valley Chapter of the AGO to work together with them for both of our mutual interests and future viability. (Michael Olson will initiate some contacts with the Northern Valley Chapter.)

We were told that we did not need any Members-at-Large, so we didn't make plans to fill those positions.

We decided that all RRVAGO events would include a Chapter Meeting, and that board meetings wouldn't be scheduled on a regular basis.

We also talked about having the RRVAGO participate as a co-sponsor with any scheduled organ events in the community that welcomed us.

A motion was made by Susan Clambey and seconded by Michael Olson to invite local organ students to become student members of the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the RRVAGO chapter will pay the first year of their student membership.

The motion was discussed and passed unanimously on vote.

Peggy Johnson will initiate recruiting AGO student members among her organ students at Concordia College. Other music teachers are also encouraged to do likewise.

Discussion took place regarding the RRVAGO Board for the 2017-2018 program year. Volunteering to stand for election are: Michael Olson, Dean; Robyn Vinje, Sub Dean; and Bradley Steen, Secretary/Treasurer.

First Friday Lunch Gathering at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant on Main Avenue in downtown Fargo, Friday, June 2, 2017, at 12 noon. Steen will call Patrick Jones (701-293-9952) at Fry'n Pan to confirm.

David Cherwien is scheduled to be in residence at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN February 8-10 in 2018.

Concordia College Church Music Conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2017, on the campus of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN.

Meeting was adjourned.

Bradley J. Steen, Secretary /Treasurer

****Membership Renewal Notice****

If the expiration date on your TAO Magazine mailing label is on or before 8/1/2017 and you have not renewed your membership within the last 30 days, then your membership has lapsed. To avoid disruption of membership benefits and TAO Magazine, renew online by visiting the AGO website and accessing ONCARD via the MEMBER Login, or by calling the AGO Headquarters staff at (212) 870-2310 (9a.m.—5 p.m. Eastern Time); or e-mail members@agohq.org.

Federal Trade Commission

On May 26, the Federal Trade Commission announced that it had approved a final order and consent agreement in which the American Guild of Organists agreed to eliminate rules that restrict its members from competing for opportunities to perform. Detailed information is available on the AGO website and published in TAO. AGO chapters have six months to comply with the terms of the Decision and Order.

As noted in an earlier FTC press release about this matter: "The Commission's consent order requires the American Guild of Organists to stop restraining its members from soliciting work as musicians, and to stop issuing compensation schedules, guidance, or model compensation. The Guild must implement an antitrust compliance program, and is required under the order to stop recognizing chapters that fail to certify their compliance with the order's provisions."

To demonstrate compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement that the AGO entered into with the Federal Trade Commission, one current officer of each domestic Guild chapter must execute a brief certification form on the chapter's behalf. As of July 14 we have received approximately 25% of the way to our goal of 100% compliance. The two-page form can be found on the AGO website. The executed form can be forwarded to Headquarters as a pdf file by e-mail, fax (212-870-2163) or surface mail.

Support the AGO Annual Fund

Honor a teacher, student, colleague, or loved one with a contribution to the AGO Annual Fund. Gifts to the AGO Annual Fund support all activities and programs of the national organization, from strategic planning to the creation of 30 instructional videos for new organists. What better way could there be to give thanks for all that your honoree has done for you than to recognize that person's support with a contribution to the AGO in their name?

Every charitable gift directly supports the Guild's mission. All gifts to the AGO are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Making a planned gift through your will or naming the AGO as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account will be a gift that will keep on giving. For more information about any of these giving options, please contact AGO Director of Development and Communications F. Anthony Thurman at (212) 870-2311, ext. 4308, during business hours, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EDT, Monday-Friday, or email fathurman@agohq.org.

Membership dues alone do not provide enough funds to support the annual operations of a national professional association like ours. Each year, we depend on three major sources of income to support Guild operations on the national level: membership dues, advertising, and contributions.

Why should I give to the AGO Annual Fund? 1) Because you value the professional and personal relationships you have in the AGO. 2) Because AGO educational programs and professional opportunities have helped further your career. 3) Because you want to "pay it forward" to ensure that others are able to enjoy a strong Guild. 4) Because you want to honor a teacher, colleague, loved one or friend with your gift to the AGO. 5) Because making a financial gift to the AGO is better than paying taxes on it.

Contributions can be made online, by mail, by emailing [F. Anthony. Thurman@agohq.org](mailto:F.Anthony.Thurman@agohq.org), or by calling (212) 870-2310.

Pedagogy Conference at the University of Kansas

Have you ever wondered what it is like to study in a French Conservatory? Join the AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy at the University of Kansas, October 18-21. The conference is entitled "Organ and Improvisation Study in the French Conservatory System." It features recitals, master classes, lectures, and panel discussions by many of the leading lights in the French organ world.

Sing A New Song 2017

A Day for Discovery, Renewal, and Refreshment for the Church Musician

The Concordia College Church Music Studies Area and the Mortenson Fund for Church Music will be sponsoring the second annual church music workshop Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hvidsten Music Building on the Concordia College Campus, Moorhead, MN. The workshop will feature a 1/2 day session on *Music that Makes Community*.

Featured faculty participating in the event will be Connie Borchardt, Music That Makes Community; Dr. Michael Culloton, Choral Techniques and Vocal Care; Dr. Peggy Johnson, Hymn Improvisation for Organists, Programs and Apps for the Church Musician; Russell Peterson, Audio Systems and Recording Technology; The Very Rev. Mark Strobel, Strengthening Pastoral and Musician Relationships.

Featured exhibitors will include the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Melberg Christian Book & Gift, Popplers Music and will be additionally sponsored by Concordia College and Salmen Organs.

If you are looking for fresh ideas for worship, need new music, want to meet others who work in church music, want to learn how to energize those who come to church, or want to enhance your intergenerational congregational singing, your attendance at this workshop will be greatly rewarded.

Costs before September 1 is \$60 (which includes lunch). Cost after September 1 is \$70 (including lunch). Student registration with student ID is \$25.

Registration forms and additional information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Peggy Johnson, Concordia College, Department of Music, 901 8th Street S., Moorhead, MN 56562 or by calling Dr. Johnson at (701) 866-5993, or email pjohnso3@cord.edu.

Melanie Ohnstad to Present Organ Recital at First Presbyterian

Melanie Ohnstad will appear in concert on **September 17, 2017 at 4 PM** at First Presbyterian Church, 650 2nd Avenue North in Fargo, ND.

Dr. Melanie Ohnstad has been in the field of church music since her graduation from St. Olaf College in 1974. Her first position was at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI, where she served as Organist/Choir Director and was leader of the Luther League and an interdenominational youth choir. A move to Phoenix brought with it the completion of a Master of Music in Organ Performance (ASU) and the post of Organist/Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Melanie played organ with the Phoenix Symphony and collaborated on a recording, *20th Century Music for Horn and Organ*.

Since moving back to the Midwest, Melanie earned a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Minnesota. She has held her current position as Minister of Music and Arts/Organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis for 22 years. Melanie enjoys accompanying choirs and soloists and has a passion for bringing the arts into liturgy and enabling congregational members to share their gifts in worship. She was dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists when it hosted the National Convention of 2008. She has accompanied multiple choir tours to the British Isles and recorded several CDs with area choirs.

Melanie is grateful for the opportunity to perform at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, longtime church home of her parents, Mons and Joy Ohnstad. Her recital will be played in loving memory of her parents who both passed away in 2013. Mons and Joy loved their church and were very active in its life and ministries. (Continued on Page 6)

|| (Melanie Ohnstad Recital continued from Page 5) ||

	Peter Halvorson of Concordia College will be joining Melanie on the concert which will include music by Bach,	
	Guilman, Mendelssohn, Bossi, and Debussy. Also participating will be Sally Harmon, Coordinator of Music and	
	Organist at First Presbyterian; Krista Clusiau, flute; and Curt Brickman, bagpipes.	

|| AGO members are encouraged to attend and stay for refreshments and a short chapter meeting following the ||
|| recital. There is also the possibility of walking to a nearby restaurant to share a meal following the meeting. ||

|| **Voices in Praise** ||

|| **Featuring Three Nationally Known Clinicians—September 22-23** ||

	Saints Anne and Joachim Catholic Church in south Fargo will host an exciting workshop created especially for	
	church choir musicians. *Voices in Praise* features a great selection of music resources and interaction with	
	nationally known clinicians. This event features an evening concert by choir members and directors led by **Joseph**	
	Martin, Craig Courtney, and Joel Raney, plus an all-day workshop and reading session.	

	The two-day celebration of music and worship begins with *A Gathering of Song* on **Friday, September 22, 2017**	
	for choir members and directors. Join the choir directed by Joseph Martin, Craig Courtney, and Joel Raney for a	
	night of music and praise. The composers will perform and lead the group for four or five choir numbers in an	
	inspiring concert that's open to the public. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. for choral rehearsal and the concert begins	
	at 7:30 p.m. The event continues on **Saturday, September 23, 2017** with an all-day (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) workshop and	
	choral music reading session. Anyone interested in attending must register, but can select either one or both	
	sessions. The cost for *A Gathering of Song* (9/22/17, 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.) is \$25. The cost for the *Choral Music*	
	Reading Session (9/23/17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.) is \$55. **The music for the concert is included in the registration fee.**	

|| Registration details and additional information are available at JWPepper.com/events or Bismarck@jwpepper.com ||
|| or by calling (701) 221-9115. ||

|| **Concordia/Gethsemane Cathedral to Host Philip Bisson Concert** ||

	Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. Concordia College and Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral will be hosting	
	Dr. Philip Brisson for an organ recital at **Gethsemane Cathedral in south Fargo**. Dr. Brisson is Director of Music	
	and Organist at the Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville, KY, the third oldest Catholic	
	Cathedral in continuous use in the country. In the summer of 2011, he was "Organist in Residence" at Christ	
	Church Cathedral in Oxford, England and this past summer he performed on the L'Organo Recital Series at the	
	Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC. In addition to his duties at the Cathedral, Dr. Brisson is also Organist	
	and Associate Director of the Louisville Master Chorale. As an organ soloist, he has given recitals in 35 states and	
	has appeared with the Louisville Orchestra as guest soloist. Philip Brisson is active in the American Guild of	
	Organists and founded the concert artist cooperative EastWestOrganists.com, which represents several prominent	
	young American organists in the United States. More extensive biographical information can be found at	
	pbrisson@cathedraloftheassumption.org.	

Composer's Corner

Contemporary Composers James Biery and Charles Callahan

JAMES BIERY (born 1956) is an American Organist who is Minister of Music at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. He was Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota from 1996-2010. Biery was featured regularly as a performer on the Cathedral's monthly concerts. He and his wife, Marilyn, shared the organ and conducting duties at the Cathedral. Before moving to Minnesota, James Biery was Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut, where he performed often on the 140 rank Austin organ.

Biery was educated at Northwestern University, where he earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Organ Performance. Mr. Biery also holds the Choirmaster and Fellowship Certificates of the AGO. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 James Biery was awarded the ASCAP Plus award for his compositions. In 1986, he was the prize-winner for the highest score on the FAGO exam administered by the American Guild of Organists. The winner of several organ competitions, he was named Second Prize Winner in the 1980 AGO National Open Competition in Organ Playing.

Biery developed his compositional skills from two disciplines: years of study of the organ and its literature and intense scrutiny of the orchestral scores of numerous composers whose music he transcribed for organ duet and organ solo. As an organist, Biery has distinguished himself by performing much of the repertoire of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His facility at the organ combined with his demonstrated ability to perform and study a vast amount of literature has given Biery a firm basis upon which to compose for the instrument. His organ and choral compositions are published by MorningStar Music Publishers, Concordia, Augsburg-Fortress, GIA and Oregon Catholic Press. He has recorded for AFKA and Naxos.

CHARLES CALLAHAN, born in 1951, is a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Callahan is well-known as an award-winning composer, organist, choral conductor, pianist, and teacher. He is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, Pa., and The Catholic University of American, Washington, DC. Additional study has been in England, France, Germany and Belgium. He holds the Associate and Choirmaster certificates of the American Guild of Organists.

Callahan compositions are performed frequently in church and concert; his writing style has been described by The Washington Post as "gentle, confident lyricism."

Among his notable compositions are two commissions from Harvard University and commissions from the Archdioceses of St. Louis and New York for Papal visits, scored for full orchestra, choir and congregation. His *MOSAICS*, a symphonic work in four movements for organ and orchestra, was premiered in the St. Louis Cathedral-Basilica.

Dr. Callahan is frequently asked to advise on the design of new organs and the restoration and improvements to existing instruments. His two volumes on American organ building history, *The American Classic Organ* and *Aeolian-Skinner Remembered*, have become standard reference works.

An active church musician and concert organist, Callahan has conducted many of the major choral works with orchestra and has performed on many of the great organs of the world. He has a dozen solo organ recordings to his credit. Callahan is an award-winning member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. He has most recently been honored by the American Guild of Organists with its 2014 Distinguished Artist award, "for his illustrious career as composer, performer, teacher and consultant, and his lifelong service to the sacred music profession."



Upcoming Events

September 9, 2017 8 AM—5 PM

“Sing a New Song 2017” Church Music Workshop
Hvidsten Music Building, Concordia College
Moorhead, Minnesota

September 17, 2017 4 PM

Melanie Ohnstad Organ Recital
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

September 22-23, 2017

“Voices in Praise”
Saints Anne and Joachim Catholic Church, Fargo

November 9, 2017 7 PM

Philip Brisson Organ Recital
Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, Fargo

December 4, 2017 7 PM

Annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

February 9-10, 2018

David Cherwien Hymn Festival & Master Class
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN and
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

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