



# Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 28, Number 4

June/July/August  
2013

## Message From the Dean

As I write this, I can hear music and clapping as the citizens of Fargo are out encouraging the marathon runners going past on the street outside. I am lucky enough to live on the Marathon route, so I can watch the action closely. I am also trapped. There is no leaving home until after 2:00 pm because my street is blocked for the safety of the runners. What to do? Well, I can write my articles, both for the church newsletter and for the Pipeline. Sometimes I need to be trapped to get things accomplished!

Summertime is upon us. My project list of "things to do when I have time" is piling up. At church, I am lining up a young intern to help me sort and re-file the bell choir's library of music. It will get her away from the TV for some hours, (her mother is excited about that,) and it will "trap" me into getting a job finished that has been crying for my attention. I can't put it off if I have a helper arriving to work with me!

Most of us have some breathing space in the summer months as the program year ends and our church populations thin as people head to the lakes and vacations, etc. I hope we can all use our extra gift of time in creative ways, encouraging members of our congregations to share their talents, either with gifts of music, or to help us accomplish tasks that need finishing.

I also like to use that extra "alone time" that I find during the summer months to

practice and add new music to my repertoire. The time spent sight-reading is always fun for me and I feel refreshed after a practice session without deadlines looming. Need some music for sight-reading? Well, we have the opportunity for you to pick some up, free of charge! The AGO potluck/music exchange was held at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The boxes of leftover music are still available for any organist who wants to look through them. Simply call or email to make an appointment. (See the separate article in the newsletter for details.)

In closing, I want to share a verse from a Pentecost hymn that seems timely:

*O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day  
long ago, rekindle faith among us in all  
life's ebb and flow. O give us ears to  
listen and tongues aflame with praise, so  
folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall  
raise.*

Soli Deo Gloria,

Sally

### First Friday Luncheon

**Who** Everyone is Welcome!

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

**Where** Fryn' Pan  
302 Main Ave, Fargo

### Chapter Officers

Dean: Sally Harmon

Sub-Dean: Sonia Carlson

Secretary: Robyn Vinje

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

### Board Members at Large

2013: Ruth Discher

2014: Alpha Roeszler

2015: Bill Tweten

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## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting April 5, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the board was held following the First Friday Lunch at the Fargo Fryin' Pan. Members present were Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler, Ruth Strawn, Sonia Carlson, Bill Tweten, and Robyn Vinje. Michael Olson was also present for part of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Sally. She announced that we received the final \$90 from the Lake Region Arts Council.

The treasurer's report was delayed and will be sent electronically later. (It showed a balance of \$5,444.13 in the checking account, \$2,818.96 in the CD, for a grand total of \$8,263.09.)

Members of the chapter will be playing in *Those Fabulous French* program of the Celestial Sounds series at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Michael Barone of MPR will be the host.

We are entertaining the possibility of hosting the Marimba Duo in October 2014. Mike will check with them.

We also previously discussed the possibility of holding a hymn festival in the fall of 2013. Sally will check with possible presenters.

We will hold our last meeting of the season on

Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. We will have a potluck and music exchange.

We have set Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, as the date for the Christmas Sing-a-long, hopefully at First Lutheran Church. Mike will check on the availability of the church for that evening.

Members who have agreed to serve as officers for the coming year are:

Dean – Sally Harmon

Vice Dean – Sonia Carlson

Secretary – James McKay

Treasurer – Tom Thoreson

Member-at-large – Jim Gurney This term is for three years, until 2016.

Continuing members-at-large are Alpha Roeszler (2014) and Bill Tweten (2015).

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, secretary



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## Board Meeting Notes

### Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting May 3, 2013

The regular board meeting of RRV Chapter of AGO took place following the First Friday lunch at the Frying Pan on Friday, May 3, 2013.

Members present were: Ruth Strawn, Ruth Discher, Sally Harmon, Sonja Carlson, as well as Michael Olson (although not a board member, we welcomed him to attend!)

Sally served as a substitute recording secretary as Robyn was absent. The April minutes were approved as printed, and the treasurers report was approved as printed.

We had expected to receive a bill for helping to pay for the ads for the April (Those Fabulous French) program. No bill has arrived at this time. The program had been cancelled due to the storm on Sunday, April 14. It will most likely be rescheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2013. That is when Michael Barone could be here again. Sally will check with the performers who had been scheduled to see if they can commit to the new date. (At time of writing, Michael Olson, Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler and Ruth Discher have said yes to this.)

Ruth S. will send out membership forms and renewal statements. There was no report on the outcome of our ballots, which was mostly done online this year.

We are hoping to secure a marimba/organ duo for the October 2014 recital.

They are available that month. Concordia's percussion department will need to "buy into" the idea and date, as percussion equipment needs to be provided for the duo. Perhaps they could do some shared programs with Concordia as well. Michael Olson sent some information to Sally about their fees, etc.

The Christmas Sing-along program will be December 9th (a Monday) at First Lutheran church. This has been confirmed by Michael Olson.

Michael will give us a report on the AGO convention IF he attends.

Anyone with Pipeline material, please submit it to Ruth D. as soon as possible!

When the new board members take over at summer's end, we may switch our meeting time to 11:00 am on the first Friday, followed by the regular lunch. It has been agreeable to most board members to have the meeting on the same day as the First Friday lunch.

songsally@aol.com



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## || Getting to Know You

|| *This edition features RRVAGO member and Treasurer-elect, Tom Thoreson.*

|| I was born and raised on a farm outside of Climax, MN. I married my wife, Janice, in 1970. We have two sons, Mikell and Chad, and daughters-in-law (both named Jennifer), and three grandchildren, Hallie, Parker, and Lily-an.

|| I attended Moorhead State College from 1968-1971, and earned my Bachelors Degree in elementary education. Jan, our sons, and I moved to Detroit Lakes, MN where I taught for two years and then moved ten miles further east to Frazee, MN where I taught second grade for 31 years. I received my Masters Degree in elementary education in 1984 and completed my studies for the Specialist in Educational Supervision Degree in 1987. In 2005 I retired and my wife and I moved to Moorhead. She became a resident of Bethany Retirement Living in 2006.

|| I took piano lessons for a total of five years as a child, but have not had any formal training on the organ. It was something I was interested in and took up on my own.

|| I have served three churches in my 30-1/2 years as an organist. I served Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Frazee for 11 years. During the last part of my tenure at Bethlehem, I became the organist at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in rural Audubon, MN where I served to 16 years.

|| I am currently the organist at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Fargo where I have served more than 6 years.

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## || Region VI Convention to be held in Springfield, Missouri June 18-20, 2013

|| There is still time to Register!!

|| Springfield, Missouri is excited to be hosting the Region VI AGO Convention this year. Registration can be completed either online via the link on the official convention website, [www.springfield2013.com](http://www.springfield2013.com), or by downloading and copying the registration form and returning it to the Springfield Chapter by mail.

|| This form will also be appropriate for those members who will be receiving complementary registration as the online venue does not allow for complementary registration.

|| The sooner registrations are received, the better they can prepare for your visit. Also note that there is a nice discount for early registration by April 15, 2013.

|| The registration category marked "Special" is for seniors ages 65 and older, as well as spouses and partners of AGO members who wish to join us.

|| The Convention Registrar is Vicky Claborn.

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### **Abundance of FREE Organ Music Available**

On Wednesday, May 22nd, the members of our chapter who shared a potluck and looked through the music available to exchange had a great time visiting, laughing and digging through music together. Everyone left with music in their hands, but THERE IS A GREAT ABUNDANCE OF MUSIC STILL AVAILABLE. The three boxes of music are in Sally Harmon's office at First Presbyterian Church, Fargo. Anyone who would like to look through the boxes and help themselves to some music is ENCOURAGED to do so! Organ music available ranges from masterworks to collections to hymn-based voluntaries. There is Christmas music and single copies of music that is long out of print. To arrange to look through the music, please email Sally at [sharmon@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:sharmon@firstpresfargo.org) or call her at 701-388-4431 to set an appointment. This music is FREE to organ students or to members of AGO.

### **An Organ at the Crossroads**

A Fall Organ Conference & Inaugural Festivities for C.B. Fisk, Opus 91 will be held at Indiana University September 15-18, 2013. Included will be performances by Colin Andrews, James David Christie (Oberlin Conservatory), Janette Fishell, David Kazmir, Bruce Neswick, William Porter (Eastman School of Music), Charles Webb, Christopher Young, and Jacobs School students.

Presenters at the conference include Steven Dieck and members of the C. B. Fisk team, distinguished alumnus Jesse Eschbach (University of North Texas), and student scholars under the direction of musicologist Daniel Melamed.

Workshops and master classes will also be offered.

For more information and registration, visit [music.indiana.edu/departments/academic/organ](http://music.indiana.edu/departments/academic/organ).

### **Attention, Instructors of Young Organists!**

Lutheran Music Program, home of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is offering an exclusive \$200 discount that AGO members can pass on to their students.

LSM, now in its 32nd season, provides organ instruction for young musicians in grades 8-12. The 2013 academy will be hosted on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, IA, June 23 to July 21.

For more information about LSM's program and the exclusive scholarship contact Megan Hasche, Administrative and Communications Assistant, Lutheran Music Program.

612-230-3295 direct / 888-635-6583 toll free

[Megan@lutheransummermusic.org](mailto:Megan@lutheransummermusic.org)



## 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).



## Composers Corner—Sir Edward Elgar

Since we are passing through the spring “Graduation Season”, I wondered just how many times Sir Edward Elgar’s *Pomp and Circumstance Military March No. 1 in D* will be played/heard in our community. It must be one of the most familiar pieces ever written, since almost everyone who has graduated from high school or college/university has probably heard it. But perhaps little is known to those graduates and parents about the composer, Sir Edward Elgar.

Sir Edward William Elgar was born on June 2, 1857 in the small village of Lower Broadheath, outside Worcester in the English West Midlands. The young Elgar, had the great advantage of growing up in a thoroughly practical musical atmosphere. His father, William Henry Elgar, worked as a piano tuner and set up a shop selling sheet music and musical instruments in Worcester. William was also a violinist of professional standard and held the post of organist of St. George’s Roman Catholic Church. By the age of eight, Sir Edward was taking piano and violin lessons and his father would sometimes take him along to many grand houses in Worcestershire where he tuned the pianos, giving the young Elgar the chance to display his skill to important local figures.

It is a remarkable fact that Elgar was very largely self-taught as a composer—evidence of the strong determination behind his original and unique genius. Sir Edward began composing at an early age; for a play written and acted by the Elgar children when he was about ten, he wrote music that forty years later he rearranged with only minor changes and orchestrated as the suites titled *The Wand of Youth*.

Until he was fifteen, Elgar received a general education at Littleton House School, near Worcester. However, his only formal musical training beyond piano and violin lessons from local teachers was more advanced violin studies with Adolf Pollitzer, during brief visits to London in 1877-78. Elgar said “my first music was learnt in the Cathedral...from books borrowed from the music library, when I was eight, nine or ten.” He worked through manuals of instruction on organ playing and read every book he could find on the theory of music. However, it was a disappointment to the budding composer that on leaving school in 1872 he went not to Leipzig as he had hoped but to the office of a local solicitor as a clerk. He did not find an office career congenial, and for fulfillment he turned not only to music but to literature, becoming a voracious reader. Around this time, he made his first public appearances as a violinist and organist.

After a few months, Elgar left the solicitor to embark on a musical career, giving piano and violin lessons and working occasionally in his father’s shop. He was an active member of the Worcester Glee Club, accompanied singers, played the violin, composed and arranged works, and conducted for the first time. His conducting experiences proved to be of the greatest value in that he acquired a practical knowledge of the capabilities of many different instruments.

In 1889 Elgar married one of his pupils, Caroline Alice Roberts, daughter of the late Major-General Sir Henry Roberts who had enjoyed a distinguished career with the British army in India. Eight years older than Elgar, Alice was a published author of verse and prose fiction. She married Edward in opposition to her aunts and cousins. Elgar’s biographer Michael Kennedy writes, “Alice’s family was horrified by her intention to marry an unknown musician who worked in a shop and was a Roman Catholic. She was disinherited”. From the day of their marriage until her death she acted as his business manager and social secretary, dealt with his mood swings and was a perceptive musical critic. She did her best to gain him the attention of influential society, though with limited success.



## Composers Corner—Sir Edward Elgar (cont.)

In her diary she wrote, "The care of a genius is enough of a life work for any woman." With Alice's encouragement, the Elgars moved to London to be closer to the center of British musical life, and Elgar started devoting his time to composition. Their only child, Carice Irene, was born at their home in West Kensington on August 14, 1890. Her name was a contraction of her mother's names Caroline and Alice. Alice with determination and a dogged faith in Edward's emerging genius, played a vital part in the development of Elgar's career.

Although rather solitary and introspective by nature, Elgar thrived in Worcester's musical circles, honing his arranging and compositional skills. Slowly, his reputation began to spread and he gradually built up a reputation as a composer, chiefly of works for the great choral festivals of the English Midlands. Although he was in demand as a festival composer, he was only just getting by financially and felt unappreciated. His first big success came at the age of 42, with the *Variations on an Original Theme (Enigma)* in 1899. Probably the best known variation is "Nimrod". Dedicated to "my friends pictured within", this work, which is a masterpiece of form and orchestration, showed that Elgar, by that time, had surpassed the other leading English composers of his day, both in technical accomplishment and sheer force of musical personality. In 1901 the first two *Pomp and Circumstance Marches* came along to add to other successes and in July of 1904 Elgar was knighted by King Edward VII at Buckingham Palace.

The First World War depressed Elgar deeply. Apart from a few patriotic pieces, incidental music for a children's play and settings of three war poems and a ballet, nothing major emerged. Speaking of Elgar's last great masterpiece, Elgar's biographer Ian Parrott wrote: "It is a work apart, by a lonely man in war-time who sees that artistic criteria have altered irreversibly".

In 1920, Lady Elgar died and with her died much of Elgar's inspiration and will to compose. She had organized his household and ministered to his comforts. For a long time she saved him hours of drudgery, for instance by ruling bar lines on score paper. She walked miles in all weathers to post precious parcels of manuscript and proofs. In the early days of their marriage she had collaborated with him to produce such works as *Scenes from the Bavarian Highlands* (1896) - Elgar's settings of his wife's poems inspired by holidays spent in Germany. At times when success seemed forever to be eluding him, she never lost faith. In short, she had been the driving force behind his genius encouraging him and proclaiming his talents at every opportunity.

Throughout the 1920s, Elgar, saddened by his bereavement and by the social and musical changes brought about by the war, lived in virtual retirement, outwardly content to live the life of a country gentleman in his beloved Worcestershire with his dogs, sometimes emerging for the occasional visit to London or for a conducting or recording assignment.

In October of 1933, Elgar was found to be suffering from a malignant tumor which pressed on the sciatic nerve. Further composition became impossible and he died on February 23, 1934.

Sources: Wikipedia and Sir Edward Elgar—A Short Biography by Ian Lace



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## **New RRVAGO Board Elected Officers**

The Spring 2013 election of RRVAGO officers was completed. All offices, other than the Members-at-Large positions, which carry a term of three years, will serve for a term lasting from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Beginning July 1, 2013, officers are as follows:

Dean	Sally Harmon	Members-at-Large:
Sub Dean	Sonia Carlson	Alpha Roeszler to 2014
Secretary	James McKay	Bill Tweten to 2015
Treasurer	Tom Thoreson	Jim Gurney to 2016

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to those members who will be coming off the Board at the end of June: Robyn Vinje, Secretary; Ruth Strawn, Treasurer; Ruth Discher, Member-at-Large.

Our chapter will be only as strong as each of our members. Please consider taking part in one or more of the committees listed on your membership application/renewal form. There are several opportunities to help support the activities and programs our chapter provides.

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

### ROOLES FOR PLAYIN' THE ORGAN IN MEETIN' by The Village Expert

When the preacher comes in and neals down in the poolpit, pull all the stoppers. That's what the stoppers is for.

When him is given out to sing, play over the whole toon before singin', but be sure to play it so that they can't tell whether it's that toon or some other toon. It will so amoose people to guess at the toon.

When you play the interlood, sometimes pull all the stoppers out, and sometimes pull them all in. The stoppers is made to pull out and in.

Play the interloods twice as long as the toon. The interloods is the best part of the mewsic, and should be the longest.

Play the interlood into the toon, without them knowing when the toon begins. This will teach them to mind their own business.

Always play the interloods faster or slower than the toon; this will keep it from being the same as the toon. If the preacher gives out five virses, play four. Tew many virses is teejus.

During the sermon go out of the church, and cum back in time for the next toon. This will show you don't mean to be hard on the preacher by having tew many listenin' to him at wonst.

-from "Sunshine" Magazine



## Fabulous French Program Rescheduled

Please note that the "Celestial Sounds - Those Fabulous French" originally scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 2013 and canceled due to inclement weather, has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2013 at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, Fargo at 4 PM. Anyone interested in participating in the program by playing an organ composition by a French composer, please contact our Dean, Sally Harmon at [songsally@aol.com](mailto:songsally@aol.com). Michael Barone, host of the weekly MPR program "Pipedreams" will be hosting the program (but not recording it for broadcast!) and providing enlightening information about the composers and pieces. The program will be open to the public.



### Cream of Crab and Broccoli Soup Recipe from Andrew Pritchard

(This was the absolute hit of the evening for all attending the May 22 Potluck!)

1 lb. crab meat, flaked  
2 pkgs. (10 oz.) frozen chopped broccoli  
1 cup onion, chopped  
6 TBSP. butter  
4 TBSP. flour  
4 cups milk  
4 cups half & half  
4 chicken bouillon cubes  
1 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper  
1/2 tsp. thyme

Cook broccoli.  
Saute onion in butter. Blend in flour.  
Add milk and half & half. Stir well.  
Cook until thick and smooth.  
Dissolve bouillon cubes in the hot soup.  
Add seasonings, crab and broccoli.  
Heat thoroughly.

Served 8 delighted organists!

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, September 8, 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  
PO Box 2223  
Fargo, ND 58108-2223  
[rrvago@hotmail.com](mailto:rrvago@hotmail.com)  
[www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley](http://www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley)

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