



# Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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May 2009

## Pipes on the Plains...Read All About It!

EXTRA! EXTRA! *Pipes on the Plains* "pays off" convention registrants!

For a great vacation experience this summer, go AGO June 15-18 in Wichita KS.

It's going to be a stupendous convention! Great programs, interesting

workshops, engaging pre- and post-convention activities? YES! New workshop additions -- the "three Jays":

—James Higbe on Beginning Hymn Improvisation

—John Leavitt on Composing for the Church

—Joyce Shupe Kull on Chapter Educational Outreach

But here are some other reasons it will pay off for you to join us in Wichita.....

*(story continued on page 2)*

## Message From the Dean

Dear RRVAGO members,

What a *fun time* we had at the Bell-abration! program at Church of the Nativity on April 19. Hearing a massed



bell choir complete with organ and vocal choir was thrilling—a great way to end our RRVAGO programming for this year. A big thank you to the

area bell choirs and their directors who participated- (it was fun watching all the different conducting styles!) The directors/bell choirs participating were Jessica Westgard/St. John Lutheran and Church of the Nativity; Sally Harmon/Bethesda Lutheran; Paul Heisler/First Lutheran, Detroit Lakes, MN; and Jill Post/BELLissimo. The vocal choirs participating were from Bethesda Lutheran, Moorhead, First Lutheran, Detroit Lakes, MN; Church of the Nativity, Fargo; and St. John Lutheran, Fargo. And thank you for the extra work of our own members on the keyboards that day—Dawn Papenfuss, Carolyn Hensrud, and Michael Olson. Suzanne Schultz also displayed her amazing piano accompaniment abilities at the program. Thank you all for the great event!

Our *last* event of the 2008-2009 program year is a *Spring pot-luck* at my home! It's going to be "warm" by then.....(I think the snow flakes are still falling as I write this on a cold Sunday night in LATE April!).....we are celebrating a great year—surviving the flood—AND Syttende Mai of course! May 17 at 4:00 pm at 6207 17<sup>th</sup> Street North, you will find many Norwegian treats. Please bring the whole family along!

Directions to Bill's home: From County Road 20 in north Fargo, take County Road #31 north for 1.7 miles and turn left on 17<sup>th</sup> St. N, we're the second house on the right, #6207. (Hint: County road #31 is about ¼ mile west of University Dr. on County 20.) My cell phone is 701-893-6712 should you need help finding the house!

The spring potluck has traditionally been the time to kick off the new RRVAGO board—so *come and enjoy great food* and meet your upcoming 2009-2010 RRVAGO board members. I look forward to seeing you at the potluck!

~Bill Tweten, Dean

This is the last issue before the summer. See you in August!

### 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: Bill Tweten

Sub-Dean: Marty Baumgartner

Secretary: Michael Olson

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

### Board Members at Large

2009: Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp

## Board Meeting Notes

April 16, 2009: The following board meeting were present: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Ruth Strawn, Gaylord Fagerland, Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler, Michael Olson, Bill Tweten. Once again, we had a wonderful potluck lunch!

Gaylord, chair of the Nominating Committee, discussed the "adventures" of finding people to serve on this committee. It has been an interesting process thus far. As the AGO board, we decided to help Gaylord in finding people to serve in various positions on the board for the 2009-2010 season. He will be contacting these people to find out if they wish to serve on the AGO board.

Ruth made a motion, seconded by Anna, to approve the secretary's minutes from the March 19 board meeting. Motion carried.

Ruth said that the treasurer's report shows no change from the previous month. There is still \$579.17 in the checking account; \$5484.11 in the original conventional CD; \$5000 in the new flexible CD, for a grand total of assets of \$11,063.28.

Anna reported that she has contacted Kim Kasling from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, and he will present an organ recital and masterclass at St. Joseph's Church in

Moorhead in late September or early October. The fee for the masterclass is \$500 and the fee for the recital is \$2000.

Sheila Baumgartner found someone to design an ad which will be placed in the regional convention book for this summer's convention in Wichita.

Bellabration is the April AGO program which will take place at the Church of the Nativity on Sunday, April 19 beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will not be a reception afterwards, so we don't have to worry about hospitality.

We still have a list of recitalists to consider for a recital in the 2010-2011 season. Inquiries continue to arrive periodically to different people on the board.

The spring potluck and "fun" event will take place at the home of Bill and Deb Tweten on Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Olson, Secretary

*(story continued from page 1)*

*Pipes on the Plains'* convention hotel rates are among the lowest, plus: every room rental includes full daily breakfast for two; and all rooms incorporate kitchen facilities as a standard.

Registration rates are quite reasonable, but there's another big bonus: In the three full days of the Convention, five lunches and dinners are provided. In other words, get a room and register, and we'll feed you! Outright amazing? YES!

In 2008, AAA rated Wichita KS "third most affordable city to visit in the United States." There are lots of Wichita attractions—both for the musician, and for the rest of the family as well. (Bring your kids to the *Family Pipe Organ Fair*, a unique pre-convention activity for children of all ages!)

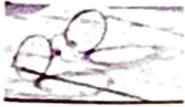
Registration prizes too! The early registration period has already passed, but.... Do we still have a deal for you? YES!

The next five full registration forms we receive, completed and marked with the words "See you in Wichita," will receive \$25.00 gift certificates at Wichita's premier music store, Senseney Music (accessible online, or at their Convention exhibit). Visit [www.pipesontheplains09.org](http://www.pipesontheplains09.org) for the registration form, and send it in today!

Wichita can be reached by plane, train, or bus. Drive the family car, the RV, or the half-ton—even paddle down the river in a dugout canoe . . . but come!

You'll be glad you did!

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## Composer Corner

### Diane Joyce Bish (1941- )

Concert and recording artist, composer, conductor and international television artist—Diane Bish has displayed her dazzling virtuosity and unique showmanship around the world. Her performances have been hailed by critics inter-



nationally as "stunning, virtuoso, fiery and astonishing". Through numerous recordings, concerts and weekly television appearances, Diane Bish is the most visible organist in the world today.

In 1989, Diane Bish, received the prestigious National Citation given by The National Federation of Music Clubs of America. "The highest honor for distinguished

service to the musical, artistic and cultural life of the nation." Other past recipients of this prestigious award are Van Cliburn, Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Irving Berlin, Fred Waring and Robert Shaw.

On her own international television series, "The Joy of Music", Diane Bish has brought together for the first time on a television platform the great music of the organ with world renowned solo artists, ensembles and orchestras. Combining exhilarating performances with entertaining, informative and inspirational narrative, the series appeals to people of all ages, musician or non-musician.

Diane Bish has produced, hosted and performed over 180 Joy of Music programs from famous churches, cathedrals, palaces, museums and monasteries of the United States, Israel and Europe. Over 100 million people worldwide are capable of seeing The Joy of Music on a weekly basis. The program is featured on six national cable networks, various independent and PBS stations, Armed Forces Network worldwide, Canada's Vision Network and various foreign countries.

Diane Bish is also seen weekly on the international broadcasts of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, where as senior organist, she directed the design and plays the majestic 117 rank Ruffatti organ. She is also featured weekly on the "Gloria" program hosted by Art Linkletter.

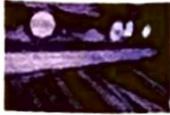
Diane Bish has made over 30 recordings on many of the great organs of the world including St. Bavo Cathedral, Haarlem, Holland and Freiburg Cathedral, Germany where she is the first American woman to record. Recordings include music for: Organ and orchestra; brass and organ; cello and organ; great organ masterpieces and original works and hymn arrangements.

The sparkling creativity and artistry of Diane Bish is equally evident in her composing as well as performing. Four major works include: Festival Te Deum for organ and orchestra; Passion Symphony for organ and narrator; Symphony of Psalms for organ, choir, orchestra and soloist and Morning Has Broken for organ, choir, orchestra and narrator. She is noted for her brilliant works for organ with seven books and numerous solo pieces. She is also the author of Church Music Explosion inspiring excellence in church music.

Diane Bish began her early study with Dorothy Addy in Wichita, Kansas. As a student of the famous Mildred Andrews, Diane Bish, while still in her teens, was the winner of national competitions in both organ and composition and recipient of Fulbright and French government grants in Amsterdam and Paris with Nadia Boulanger, Gustav Leonhardt and Marie Claire Alain. 🍷

Submitted by Bill Tweten, Dean

Credit: Fred Bock Music Companies, [www.fredbock.com](http://www.fredbock.com)



## Hymn Stories

### “Lift High The Cross”

“Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore his sacred name.  
Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in unity combine.”

The Anglican Church, especially in large England cathedrals beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is known for elaborate and colorful processions, particularly on major feast days. Some of our favorite hymns were composed with processions in mind.

“Lift high the cross” joins these earlier contributions as one of the great processional hymns in the Anglican tradition. The original version with 11 stanzas plus refrain was written for a festival service under the auspices of an important mission organization, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, held in Winchester Cathedral in 1887 by George William Kitchen (1883-1894), Dean of the Cathedral.

Kitchen’s original was altered by Anglican priest Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956), who later became Canon of Chester Cathedral, for the *Supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1916). Through this publication the hymn has gained prominence around the English-speaking world.

“Lift high the cross” incorporates an important feature of processions: the crucifer (cross-bearer) leads the stately procession down the long nave, lifting the cross high. This ritual use of the cross is a sign of the victory of the resurrection and finds a biblical basis in John 12:32, “And I, when I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself”.

Another influence comes from the fourth century, based on a story of the Emperor Constantine’s vision as told in Eusebius’s *Life of Constantine*, in which he saw a cross inscribed with the words, “In hoc signo vinces” (“in this sign of the cross you will conquer”). Constantine recognized Christianity officially as a religion of the state, providing a basis for further spread of Christianity.

The hymn did not find voice in the United States until it was published in *Hymns for the Living Church* (1974), edited by hymnologist and professor Donald Hustad. Since that time, “Lift high the cross” has become a staple of many hymnals.

Every great processional hymn must have stirring music. Sir Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947) wrote the tune CRUCIFER for the *Supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1916), a publication for which he was the chief music advisor. As British Methodist hymnologist J.R. Watson correctly points out, Nicholson “showed a fine sense of the potential of the words, the relatively subdued melody of the verses contrasting with the spectacular refrain.”

(Credit: History of Hymns: Processional hymn has militant tones by C. Michael Hawn)

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## Upcoming Events

*September 21, 2008, 4:00 pm*

The 2008 Minneapolis National Convention Revisited  
Peace Lutheran Church, Fargo

*October 19, 2008, 4:00 pm*

Pipe Spectacular – Music for Organ, and Others  
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

*December 7, 2008, 3:00 pm*

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long  
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Moorhead

*February 11, 2009, 1:00 pm*

A Valentine Recital – Music of Love  
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

*March 23, 2009, 7:00 pm*

Concordia College Organ Students in Recital  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

*April 19, 2009, 7:00 pm*

BFFI -abration! A Massed Performance of Handbells,  
Vocal Choirs, Organ and Other Instruments  
Nativity Catholic Church, Fargo

*May 17, 2009, 4:00pm*

**Member Potluck**

The home of Bill & Deb Tweten, Fargo, ND

## Contact Information

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