



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

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Dec/Jan/Feb
2017—2018

Message From the Dean

As I write this letter to each of you on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, I am in the midst of playing for five funerals this week. The funeral yesterday for Norma Halverson was very special as I was fortunate to play piano/organ duets with Sally Harmon, one of Norma's students and a very close friend. We are actually going to play all these duets on one of my recitals after the holidays sometime as a tribute to Norma. We'll keep everyone informed as to when that will happen. I was fortunate to be able to play from Norma's music with all her notations! She was certainly smiling down on Sally and me while we were playing!

In the midst of this incredibly busy time of year for everyone, take some time for yourself! There are countless musical events in the community --

The Concordia Christmas Concerts,
December 1-3

NDSU Messiah Performances at First Lutheran in Fargo, December 1-2 (All performances are sold out!)

Christmas with the Master Chorale,
December 7-10

NDSU Madrigal Dinners,
December 7-9

Christmas Organ Recitals at the Fargo Theatre, December 13-15, 18-22 (please bring non-perishable food items for the Emergency Food Pantry when you come to listen!)

The Blenders at the Fargo Theatre, LOTS of upcoming concerts!

I shouldn't have started listing all the concerts because I'll forget something...

I do know that Dillon Swanson, a high school senior from Oakes, ND, is presenting an organ recital at Peace Lutheran Church in Fargo on Saturday, December 9 at 3:00 PM. I will be playing two piano/organ duets with him at that concert. Dillon is one of our newest AGO members.

We all need to promote AGO wherever we go and to whomever we encounter.

First Lutheran Church has monthly Communion services at Rosewood on Broadway, where Norma Halverson resided for several years. When I would see her at the Communion services, she would invariably ask me, "How's AGO?" She remembered fondly her many years in this organization and all the people she met and all her colleagues in organ and church music.

If anyone would ever like to participate in one of my Wednesday recitals, from 12:45 to 1:15 PM, please let me know. You could play one piece, or two pieces, or the entire half-hour recital. The choice is up to you! This is a great performance venue because the folks who come to the recital are wonderful people who enjoy music and are very supportive. It is a small crowd, but they are faithful folks.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. See you on Monday evening at the Christmas Sing and Ring event at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo at 7:00 PM. I will also be at the Concordia Christmas Concert on Friday evening, and the NDSU Messiah event on Saturday evening.

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: Michael Olson
Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
Secretary: Brad Steen
Treasurer: Brad Steen

Message from the Dean

(Continued from Page 1)

There is NO shortage of Christmas concerts in the next few weeks. Perhaps you would like to attend something you have never attended before!

Blessings to you at Christmastime and throughout the New Year...

Michael Olson, Minister of Music, 1st Lutheran Church, Fargo
Dean, RRVAGO
North Dakota District Convener, AGO

Updates from the RRVAGO Secretary/Treasurer

As of Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Checking account balance: \$4,534.68

Membership Numbers: 11 Regular
5 Special
11 Young Organist
1 Dual

28 PAID MEMBERS

Dillon Swanson Organ Recital Tour



Dillon Swanson, son of Bobbi Dunlavy, is a senior at Oakes High School. His love for music began at a very young age as he would watch his aunt play both piano and organ. Once he started school, Dillon began piano lessons and later began playing the organ. Today, he is the Music Director and Organist

of Presbyterian United Methodist Church in Ellendale, North Dakota as well as Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Clement, North Dakota. After graduation, Dillon will attend Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He plans to double major in Music Education and Organ Performance and minor in Church Music. His goal in life is to inspire as many people through music like the special people in his life who taught him how to use his gift.

This concert has a little something for everyone including classical works, piano/organ duets, original compositions and arrangements, and even congregational singing! Some works include: "And the Glory of the Lord" (from "The Messiah"), March from "The Nutcracker Suite", and the premiere of 5 compositions by Dillon!

TOUR DATES

December 8th, 2017-Aberdeen, SD
First Presbyterian Church
318 S Kline St
Dinner at 6pm - Concert at 7pm

December 9th, 2017 - Fargo, ND
Peace Lutheran Church
1011 12th Ave N
Concert at 3pm

December 16th, 2017 - Oakes, ND
Grace Lutheran Church
821 Hickory Ave
Concert at 7pm

All concerts are free and open to the public
A Free-Will Donation offering will be collected to compensate guest musicians

RRVAGO Dean, Michael Olson, will be playing some piano/organ duets in concert with Dillon at the Peace Lutheran Church performance on December 9 in Fargo. Dillon is one of RRVAGO's newest AGO members.

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

Belissimo Handbells, Notables Women's Chorus
Organists from the RRV - AGO, Brass and Wind Instrumentalists
Donations will go to the Food Pantry & Music Scholarships

7:00 PM

Monday, December 4, 2017
First Presbyterian Church
650 2nd Avenue North Fargo

Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer



Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

At First Presbyterian Church, 650 2nd Avenue North, Fargo

This year's theme is *Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer*, and will feature an orchestra, three children's choirs, the Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir, a brass ensemble, organ and congregational carol-singing in celebration of word and seasonal music. Christmas goodies will be served following the service, with seasonal piano music provided by Nancy Norris.

**Composer, Organist David Cherwien in Residence
At Concordia College in February, 2018**

Well known composer and organist David Cherwien will be on the Concordia College campus February 8-10, 2018. Two major public events are scheduled along with rehearsals and open forum times for the students. First, David will plan, rehearse, and present a **HYMN FESTIVAL** at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead on Friday evening, February 9, 2018. The program will begin at 7pm. Then, on Saturday, February 10, Mr. Cherwien will present a **MASTERCLASS** in hymn playing and literature for area organists. The workshop will be held at First Lutheran Church, Fargo (pending any unforeseen funeral services) from 9:30am-12noon. AGO members and friends are encouraged to attend either or both events. **THERE IS NO ADMISSION CHARGE FOR EITHER EVENT.** If any organists wish to play for Mr. Cherwien on Saturday's Masterclass, please contact Peggy Johnson directly as time is somewhat limited. Peggy can be reached at pjohnso3@cord.edu or (701) 866-5993.

David M. Cherwien, born in 1957, is currently serving as Director of Music at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. In 2002 he was appointed Music Director for the National Lutheran Choir, also based in the Twin Cities. He also held full time parish music positions in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, Chicago, Seattle and Berlin, Germany. Mr. Cherwien completed his Doctor of Music Arts degree in Organ Performance and the Master of Arts degree in Theory and Composition, both from the University of Minnesota. His undergraduate work was in organ performance and music education at Augsburg College in Minneapolis where he was honored as Distinguished Alumni in the fall of 2000.

His workshops on church music, service playing and improvisation, and his hymn festivals and other worship leadership roles have brought him to many parts of the country. Quote: *"As a renowned church organist, conductor, composer and improviser, David Cherwien brings creativity to hymns of various traditions and styles. He has won national acclaim as a leader of congregational song with hymn festivals that are always inspiring. With innovative merging of organ, piano, instruments, and voices, his music enfolds the participants and transports them to an encounter with the sublime. Through this expression of faith, Mr. Cherwien bears witness that music is a glorious gift of God."* Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Fine Arts Series 1997, Indianapolis, IN.

Mr. Cherwien's residency at Concordia is sponsored by the Mortenson Fund for Church Music and Concordia College, with additional support offered by Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, First Lutheran Church, Fargo and the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

2018 AGO National Convention Newsletter

TO ALL AGO MEMBERS,

Registration is now open for the 2018 AGO National Convention to be held in **Kansas City, July 2-6, 2018**. After years of planning, we have assembled an incredible program of works-class organists, choirs, workshops, and continuing education opportunities. Creative worship services and world premieres of new organ and choral works by renowned lyricists and composers will be showcased in beautiful and historical organ venues.

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, which is of particular significance to Kansas City, home of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. Both of our convention hotels sit in the shadow of the Museum and Memorial. Much of our programming will reflect on the ways in which the Great War impacted and influenced the arts world.

Convention housing will be at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center and its sister property, the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Registration, Exhibits and Workshops will be at the Sheraton, which will serve as the Convention Headquarters.

Super Saver rates will be available until **December 31, 2017**:

AGO Regular Member- \$375
AGO Senior 65+- \$350
Spouse/Partner- \$350
Young Organist under 30- \$250

Early Registration rates will be available **January 1-March 31, 2018**:

AGO Regular Member- \$435
AGO Senior 65+- \$395
Spouse/Partner- \$350
Young Organist under 30- \$250

The Full bus transportation package (\$175) is recommended. For Young Organists under 30, the bus is only \$100 for the entire convention. Daily and single-event bus passes are also being offered.

Please visit our convention website at agokc2018.com to register and explore all of the performers, venues, instruments, and workshops of the convention.

We look forward to seeing you next July at the convention.

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE BEST RATES!

From National Headquarters

VOX HUMANA

The AGO is pleased to announce their affiliation with Vox Humana, a free new online journal that presents current ideas, trends, and research relating to the organ by leading musicians and scholars from around the world.

AGO NATIONAL ELECTION

The AGO National Council has received the list of nominations from the National Nominating Committee for the 2018-2020 AGO National Council and Board of Regional Councillors. Candidates for seven national offices and seven regions are announced.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The AGO National Council, Board of Regional Councillors, and Headquarters Staff met with 2B Communications in Kansas City in late October to review and discuss responses to dozens of personal interviews and hundreds of long-range planning surveys to lay the groundwork for a three-year strategic plan. Under the guidance of our independent facilitators, the councilors and staff will continue to work on the plan over a period of six months and finalize it in April 2018. The strategic plan, which is being formulated to ensure the continued health and viability of the Guild, will be unveiled at the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City.

16th Annual Shanley High School Candlelight Christmas Concert

The 16th Annual Shanley High School Candlelight Christmas Concerts will be presented Sunday, December 3 and Monday, December 4 at 7:00pm inside the beautiful sanctuary space of Sts. Anne and Joachim Church in south Fargo.

This year's concert theme is, "Be Still and Know that I am God," which will feature classic Christmas melodies like "Still, Still, Still," "In the Bleak Midwinter," "Silent Night," and much, much, more! All are invited to come be filled with the spirit of the coming season and enjoy the peace and stillness that young musicians can bring!

Make a Gift to the AGO

#Giving Tuesday, a national day of philanthropy, was November 28. The AGO set an ambitious goal to raise \$24,000 for the AGO Annual Fund in 24 hours. Although this issue of the Pipeline will be sent out after that date, it is never too late to consider a contribution to the AGO Annual Fund.

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

"The Guild is poised for great things in 2018. At our National Convention in Kansas City, MO, July 2-6, we will roll out a completely new, three-year strategic plan that is designed to provide greater support to our chapters and members than ever before. But first, we will start the year by helping to fund January Jubilees in Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio. In the spring we will honor John Ferguson with a Gala in Minnesota. Then in June and July we will provide financial support to six chapters hosting Pipe Organ Encounters in six different states (Arizona, Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, California, and Florida) and to the many dozens of students attending them. All year long we will provide funding to aid the studies of a half-dozen Pogorzelski-Yankce scholars at the undergraduate and graduate levels; strengthen our five-tier certification program; and publish hundreds of pages of information about organs and organists in The American Organist, the world's leading publication for our profession.

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, student, or a teacher. You can make your gift online at agohq.org or you can call us at 212-870-2310, during business hours from 9-5 Eastern time. 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 music 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.

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

Gratefully Celebrating the Life of Norma Halverson

Norma Ellingson Halverson grew up in Bismarck, ND, playing piano for school and church. She studied organ at the MacPhail School in Minneapolis, MN and attended Lutheran Bible Institute. She studied organ locally with Ruth Berge, and was her assistant organist at First Lutheran Church, Fargo, for a time. Norma met her husband Curtis while singing in the choir at First Lutheran. They married in 1958 and had two sons, Alan and Paul. Norma was a long-time member of AGO. She was full time organist at First United Methodist Church, Fargo, for 36 years, retiring only when forced to for health reasons. Her student, Sally Harmon, followed her as organist at First UMC. Norma played for countless church services, weddings, funerals, recitals and other musical events, including being the accompanist for the FMAMC Noteables. She was also an original member of the Fargo Moorhead Music Club's Piano Quartet group. She taught piano and organ in the community for more than forty years and continued to sing in church choirs wherever she was, whether in Fargo or Mesa, Arizona during the winters. She played the orchestra bells in the New Horizons Band when she couldn't use both hands at the piano anymore. She was a fearless performer, a marvelous duet partner, and leaves behind a legacy of music in the community with her many students who continue to play and perform. Norma passed away on Thursday, November 23, 2017 at the age of 90 years.



Upcoming Events

December 4, 2017 at 7:00pm

"A Christmas Carol Ring and Sing-Along"
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

December 9, 2017 at 3:00pm

Dillon Swanson Organ Recital
Peace Lutheran Church, Fargo

December 13-15, 18-22, 2017

Christmas Organ Recitals at
The Fargo Theatre, Downtown Fargo

December 17, 2017 at 6:30pm

Carols by Candlelight
"Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer"
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

February 9, 2018 7 pm

Hymn Festival with David Cherwien
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

February 10, 2018 9:30am—12 noon

Organ Workshop/Masterclass with David Cherwien
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Every Wednesday at 12:45-1:15pm

Midday Organ Recital by Michael Olson and/or
guests performed in the Sanctuary at
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

Contact Information

American Guild of Organists
Red River Valley Chapter
PO Box 2223
Fargo, ND 58108-2223
rrvago@hotmail.com
www.agohq.org/chapters/redrivervalley

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