



Pipeline

American Guild of Organists—Red River Valley Chapter

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2016

Message From the Dean

As the new school year is about to begin -- the Fargo/Moorhead Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is gearing up for another great year of events for our membership and community. I want to encourage our membership to "bring a friend"! The best referral comes from YOU and your enthusiasm for our local chapter. We want this to be a year of growth and encourage everyone to get involved. Make an effort to set your calendars for our upcoming events and jump in to volunteer in any way you feel comfortable.

Please especially note the upcoming ONE-DAY event at Concordia on September 10th. What a great opportunity to get re-energized for the fall! A few of our own members are involved leading the workshop that will provide 12 learning opportunities. Choral, handbell, service playing, and contemporary worship will all be areas of discussion and learning. See the workshop ad in the Pipeline for further details.

Other programs will include our Annual Christmas Hymn-Sing event, our Spring Music Exchange and a couple other events "in the works". We'll keep you posted with breaking news as it comes available.

So if you vote for Trump or Hillary-

--remember that one thing is certain, the RRV AGO Chapter needs you and your input will make a difference! We invite all organists, choral directors, and handbell choir directors to join in the fun of our chapter. I love the ATO magazine, and the connection we have to other organist across the country with our ONCARD member services on the AGO website. And remember you can easily join online---it's quick and easy!

Bill Tweten

RRV AGO Chapter Dean

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: Sally Harmon

Secretary: Tom Hanson

Treasurer: Brad Steen

Board Members at Large

2016: Andrew Steinberg

2017: Alpha Roeszler

2018: Jean Hellner

Board Meeting Notes

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

Board members present: Sally Harmon, Bill Tweten, Alpha Roeszler, Brad Steen, and Robyn Vinje.

The secretary's minutes of the April meeting were distributed electronically to the board members previously.

Sally gave the treasurer's report in Jean Roberts' absence. We have a balance of \$3538.93 in the checking account. Jean filled out the IRS form 990N online (for tax exempt status).

Sally reported that she has received no feedback from funeral homes regarding her letter requesting that organist's fees be \$150 for funerals. Boulger has been paying \$150 already. Individuals will need to contact the funeral homes if they wish to have this level of reimbursement in the future.

Our last program of the year will be Tuesday, May 24th, at 6:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church of Fargo. We will have a potluck supper, followed by a music exchange. The secretary will send a reminder to the members via e-mail.

Discussion was held on possible programs for next year, as follows:

October Membership Event—Bill will chair.

December—Sing-a-long with FM Area Music Club at First Presbyterian, 7:00 PM, to be chaired by Jill Post and Sally.

March—Organ Plus. Possibly at Sts. Anne & Joachim.

May—Potluck Supper and Music Exchange.

Voting was held on the nominated officers:

Dean—Bill Tweten

Subdean—Sally Harmon

Secretary—Tom Hanson

Treasurer—Brad Steen

Member-at-large—Jean Hellner

All officers were elected. Alpha Roeszler and Andrew Steinberg continue as member-at-large. New officers take over in July.

Next board meeting will be Friday, June 3rd, at 11:00 AM to be followed by FFL.

The July meeting will be Friday, July 8th, due to the Fourth of July holiday.

Respectfully submitted, Robyn Vinje, Secretary

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting June 28, 2016

Present: Dean Bill Tweten, Subdean Sally Harmon, Outgoing Secretary Robyn Vinje, Incoming Secretary Tom Hanson, Treasurer Brad Steen, Members-at-large; Jean Hellner, Alpha Roeszler, and Jim Gurney.

Secretary read May board meeting minutes. March meeting Organ Plus will be at Messiah Lutheran Church. Approved by Alpha and Robyn.

Treasurer's Report: No report. Jean Roberts (outgoing treasurer out of town). Brad, Bill, and Jean will meet and change signatures at the bank.

Set a meeting time to be second Tuesday of the Month, during the summer at 7 PM and during the school year at 7:30 PM.

Membership Drive: 20 paid members, 3 invoiced but not paid. Contact organists in area who aren't members. We do have money for supper, etc., catered meal?

Saturday, September 10th, All Day Workshop at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN with Dr. Peggy Johnson. Discussion on having a booth representing the chapter at this event.

Assignments:

Bill: Talk to Andrew about Webpage.

Sally: Call Peggy.

Tom: Work on compiling a master list of churches in a one hour radius of Fargo/Moorhead. Also discussed Jamestown.

Discussion on contacting potential churches and members, organists, choir directors, handbells, children's choirs, vocalists.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12th, 7 PM.

The above notes are compiled from notes taken by both Robyn and Tom at the last meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas Hanson, Secretary

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting July 12, 2016

Meeting convened at 7 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fargo by Dean Bill Tweten.

Present: Bill Tweten, Alpha Roeszler, Jean Hellner, Sally Harmon, Brad Steen, and Tom Hanson.

Minutes presented and approved with name spellings corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Transition accomplished between Brad and Jean Roberts with the bank. Current balance as of May = \$3598.03.

Membership Drive discussed. Our chapter will be a presence at an educational event at Concordia College on September 10th, organized by Peggy Johnson. Peggy is delighted to have us there. We will look at a publicity brochure to be made and a paragraph from Bill to invite to the booth that we will have set up. Discussed including pictures of organs, old TAO's etc. Alpha will visit with Lance about the portative organ.

Alpha spoke to Ruth Discher. Pipeline out in the fall.

First Friday Luncheon August 5th.

October "Spooktacular" on the 30th.

Talk about March Organ Plus.
May: Music Exchange and Potluck, Tuesday, May 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas Hanson, Secretary

Board Meeting Notes

Minutes of the RRV/AGO Board Meeting August 9, 2016

Board members present: Brad Steen, Alpha Roeszler, Sally Harmon, Bill Tweten.

Minutes from July 12th were approved as read, with the addition of compiling lists of organists.

Treasurer's Report—Our account balance is \$3757.93. We have 21 paid members which include 12 regular members, 6 special, 1 student and 2 friends.

Discussed compiling list of lapsed RRVAGO members from the past 5 years. Brad Steen will look into the past information available to him through the national office.

We need to have the First Friday Lunch "alerts" out early in the week of the first Friday to our members. In the past this was the responsibility of the secretary. Bill will check with Tom to see if that's going to work.

FM Choral Artists concert last spring—We should have an article on this. Bill will get the program from Alpha and write an article.

September 10th Workshop at Concordia—RRV/AGO will host a table for the day and have RRV/AGO information to share. Membership forms and information on the Guild will need to be put together. Sally will get the information from Peggy Johnson for the Pipeline. Bill will check on having a brochure made—have Pixie/Messiah make up the flyer.

Alpha has a listing of the churches mailing list from the Eastern North Dakota ELCA Synod office. She is sharing the list with board members.

Bill will ask Andrew for the information on the Halloween SPOOKTACULAR—that will be held at Trinity during Halloween weekend.

Other upcoming events: Tentative ORGAN CRAWL set for Sunday, October 16. Brad will check with St. Anne's and St. Mary's. Bill will check with Our Redeemers in Moorhead. We are touring pipe organ installations that combine pipes with electronics. HYBRID ORGAN TOUR.

December 5th at 7 PM—Christmas Hymn Sing at First Presbyterian Church. Sally Harmon is the host for this event.

Notes submitted by Bill Tweten.

SING A NEW SONG 2016

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

Sponsored by the Concordia College Church Music Studies Area and the Mortenson Fund for Church Music

**Saturday, September 10, 2016 Time: 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
Hvidsten Music Building, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.**

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?

Want to expand the use of your handbells in worship?

Consider attending this local event.

FEATURED FACULTY:

Dr. Michael Culloton—Vocal Care for Adult Choirs, Enhancing Worship with Choirs

Dr. Peggy Johnson—Dynamic Hymns and Accessible Organ Literature

Kathy Lindquist—Building a Strong Children's Choir Ministry

Dr. Jeff Meyer—Sources of New Congregational Song, Choosing and Implementing New Music

Dr. Jean Roberts—Transferring Piano Skills to the Organ

Andrew Steinberg—Worship Organist

The Very Rev. Mark Strobel—Strengthening Pastoral and Musician Relationships

Jessica Westgard Larson—Handbells 101, Creative Use of Handbells

FEATURED EXHIBITORS:

American Guild of Organists

Heinz Handbells

Melbergs Christian Book & Gift

Popplers Music

Red River Chapter

Rodgers Organ Company

SPONSORS:

Concordia College

Salmen Organs

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:

8-8:45 am Check-In and Coffee

8:45-9:20 am Worship

9:30-10:15 am

Session I

Option A

Back to the Future: Building a Strong Children's Choir Ministry

Option B

The Vocal Care and Nurturing of Your Church Choir

10:30 am-11:15 am

Session II

Option A

One in Mission: Enhancing the Life of your Congregation with Your Church Choir

Option B

Organ I: Transferring Piano Skills to the Organ

11:30-12:15 pm

Session III

Option A

Sources of New Congregational Song: Beyond the Worship Industry

Option B

Organ II: Dynamic Hymns

12:15-1:30 pm

Lunch and Exhibits

(Continued on Page 5)

SING A NEW SONG 2016 (continued from Page 4)

1:30-2:15 pm	Session IV
Option A	Choosing and Implementing New Congregational Song
Option B	Creative and Accessible Organ Music
2:30-3:15 pm	Session V
Option A	Handbells 101
Option B	Clergy and Musicians: Our Working Relationship
3:30-4 pm	Session VI
Option A	Creative Use of Handbells and Ideas for Growing Your Choir
Option B	Music Planning for the Church Year
4-4:45 pm	Exhibits and Evaluation

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Costs: Before September 1	\$50 (includes lunch)
After September 1	\$60 (includes lunch)
Student Registration	\$20 (with ID)

Registration forms and additional information can be obtained by contacting Dr. Peggy Johnson at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN 56562
Phone: (701) 866-5993
Email: pjohnso3@cord.edu

Piano & Organ Duet Concert & Hymn Sing

Sunday, September 11, at 2:00 PM, Peggy Bartunek and Connie Sjostrom will present a concert of piano/organ duets and hymn-sing featuring American patriotic songs and hymns. The event will be held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 344 W. 15th Street, Grafton, ND. A few selections will also include violin and bass. The organ is a 3-manual Rodgers digital organ and the piano is a Yamaha grand.

For more information contact:

Peggy Bartunek
Rodgers Classic Organs
P.O. Box 430, Grafton, ND 58237
1-800-962-6989
Text messages: 701-360-0167
www.rodgersclassicorgans.com

Composer's Corner—Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

The contemporary French composer Jean Langlais was born February 15, 1907, into a simple country family who made their home at La Fontelle, France in the region of Brittany. Jean became blind at the young age of 2 and in 1918 was sent to receive his education at the National Institute for the Young Blind. It was there that Jean began to study piano, violin, harmony and organ. His organ teacher as the great André Marchal, himself blind and a former pupil of the Institute, and, like so many French organists (including, eventually, Langlais himself) a skilled improviser.

With Marchal's guidance, Langlais graduated in 1927 and went on to study organ at the Paris Conservatory of Music under Marcel Dupré, composition under Paul Dukas and improvisation under the powerful influence of Charles Tournemire, who dazzled him with his legendary gift for extemporization, and whose compositions impressed him deeply. Having won a number of prizes for composition, interpretation and improvisation, Langlais ended his studies at the Conservatoire in 1934 and took up an appointment at his old school, the National Institute for the Young Blind, conducting the choir and teaching organ and composition for a period of 40 years. In 1945 he became organist of the prestigious St. Clothilde in Paris, succeeding his predecessors Tournemire and César Franck, and retained that position for 42 years until retiring in 1987 at age 80. Langlais also taught at the Paris Schola Cantorum where, between 1961 and 1976, he influenced both French and foreign students.

Langlais wrote primarily for organ, composing over 245 works. In addition to his work in Paris, Langlais played more than 300 concerts in North America and taught innumerable master classes in the United States. Many of his works were written for American performers and audiences. A man of profound religious conviction, his neo-classic style music was almost exclusively sacred, inspired by his love of the Catholic liturgy and of Gregorian chant. His attractive melodies make his music accessible and enjoyable.

On Sunday, July 1, 1984, Jean Langlais had decided to play the high mass at the Cathedral of Dol-de-Bretagne to celebrate the jubilee of his old friend Father Orrières, archpriest of that cathedral. At the end of the mass, which was extremely long, he seemed to have trouble mastering the stiff mechanical action of the manuals during his "Te Deum", but finished the work and descended the narrow steps of the spiral staircase that connected the organ loft to the interior of the cathedral. Once he got to the bottom of the stairs, he lost consciousness. He was quickly taken to Saint-Malo hospital, where the doctors diagnosed a stroke with aphasia (loss of speech), and paralysis of the right side. The prognosis was bleak, and the medical team pessimistic. When he regained consciousness, he spoke his first words from his hospital bed in English! Then, very quickly, all language disappeared. Only one week after the stroke, he nevertheless made clear his strong desire to go home.

Back in Paris, ten weeks after the stroke, he had a consultation with a prominent neurologist who realized very quickly that, while his speech and language abilities had been seriously impaired, all Jean Langlais' musical abilities seemed preserved. While the composer did not know any longer how to read and write language using Braille, he was still able, with the same alphabet, to read and write music, which astonished the doctor. Based on this, a therapy regimen began intended to support and improve the

Composer's Corner—Jean Langlais (continued from Page 6)

musical abilities of the patient.

After 1984, the composer had to work hard (sometimes several hours per day) to remember a fraction of his original repertoire—a few isolated pages of Bach, several works of Franck, Tournemire or the old French masters. He could remember virtually **none** of his own works. His own music was essentially erased from his memory.

On October 9, 1984, a little over three months after his stroke, Jean Langlais resumed his duties at Ste. Clotilde. Because his abilities as an improviser had not suffered, on October 24th he recorded for French television a series of improvisations of the same quality as his earlier ones.

His journey was arduous: deprived of any opportunity to communicate, Jean Langlais had to sit at the keyboards and play each voice separately to patient copyists who understood his thoughts well enough to correctly assemble the pieces of the puzzle, which was not always done without problems.

Jean Langlais, however, gradually adapted to his new life. Driven by a great life force, helped by his family and friends, among whom was Olivier Messiaen, who supported him, he gradually returned to his professional activities. He again took up both his service at Ste. Clotilde and his private lessons, compensating for his difficulty with words by playing multiple examples on the keyboard.

Only giving a concert now seemed too difficult, and he appeared in recital for the last time in France at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris on Sunday, March 2, 1986. The phenomenon of memory lapses, absolutely unknown to him in the past, prompted him to give up playing in public, except for participation in certain short and exceptional events.

On the evening of Wednesday, May 8, 1991, a pulmonary edema attack, the third in three days, began. As in the two previous crises, he still struggled fiercely and fully consciously, for a long while. And then, at 11:45 pm, his hand was shaken by a brief spasm and fell back inert. He was dead at the age of 84.

His private funeral was held on May 16 with great simplicity in the family intimacy of the small church of Escalquens. Jean Langlais rests there, according to his wish, in the adjoining cemetery alongside his first wife.

Save the Date
Sunday, October 16, 2016
"Organ Crawl"
Sponsored by RRVAGO
Watch for details via email

|| From the North Central Regional Newsletter ||

|| Our next national AGO convention will be held in Kansas City—right in our region! The Greater Kansas City chapter is working to prepare for this huge event. Watch your TAO for information and encourage members to attend.

|| The Wartburg College POE in Waverly, Iowa was attended by 14 enthusiastic young people eager to improve their skills at the organ and meet other young people also interested in the organ. The winner of the Great Lakes Quimby/RYCO last summer was a student at one of the South Dakota POE's and played in the Rising Stars recital in Houston. The 2017 POE will be held in Sioux Center, Iowa at Dordt College. Regional Councillor Marilyn Schempp from Sioux Falls, SD is looking for chapters to host Poe's in 2018 and 2017 and is available to visit with any chapter interested in this possibility.

|| A January Jubilee will be hosted by the Wichita Kansas Chapter in 2017. Jubilees are a one day event with workshops in choral, handbells, organ, etc. Part of the purpose of the Jubilee is to gain new AGO members through making them aware of our organization. It is also a good time to gather and share ideas with colleagues. Handbooks and application forms for both the POE and January Jubilee can be found on the national AGO website.

|| A wealth of information can be found on the national web page. Many chapters have elected new chapter deans who may find the Chapter Management Handbook helpful (available on the national website under Chapter Documents in the quick Links of the Home Page).

|| The North Central Region has a Facebook page! It can be used to post our chapter events and we are encouraged to share events and pictures to the TAO. The AGO Chapter News section in the TAO is also a great section to get programming ideas for our own chapter.

|| **AGO Young Organists (AGOYO)** has just finished its first year in existence. The AGOYO is a Facebook youth organization for those under age 30. If you know of young people in this age-range, encourage them to join the AGOYO Facebook page. This is a great way for these young people to connect with other young organists.

|| It would be great to have more of our members earn their certificates. The Service Playing Exam is very attainable and is worth considering. Contact the AGO Professional Education Coordinator, Jeremy Chesman, for more information.

|| *(Excerpts and information taken from the North Central Regional Councillor Marilyn Schempp's July 2016 Newsletter)*

|| 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.



Upcoming Events

September 10, 2016 at 8:00am
Sing A New Song 2016 Workshop
Concordia College, Moorhead, MN

October 16, 2016
Organ Crawl/Hybrid Organ Tour
Time and details to be announced

October 30, 2016
"Spooktacular"
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN

March 2017
Organ Plus Concert
Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

May 16, 2017
RRVAGO Chapter Potluck and Music Exchange

Contact Information

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