



# PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 24, Number 3

April 2007

## Sam Metzger in Concert

Nationally recognized organist, Samuel Metzger will present an organ concert at First Presbyterian Church of Fargo on Friday, April 20 at 7:00 pm. This



will be a dedication concert for the new pipe organ at First Presbyterian. It is a three-manual and pedal instrument built by the

Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio. The organ comprises 5 divisions with 59 ranks [3,367 pipes] including a

pre-existing antiphonal division.

Samuel Metzger began to play organ for worship at the age of 11 in Arizona where his father was a missionary on the Navajo reservation. In 1990 he began undergraduate study at Arizona State University, and in 1995 he was named the Most Outstanding Undergraduate in Performance. In 1996 and 1997 he was awarded Fulbright Scholarships to study in Stuttgart Germany. While in Germany he was organist at the Lutherkirche in Stuttgart-Feurbach. Upon completion of his Fulbright scholarship, he studied with Marie-Claire Alain in St. Germain-en-Laye, France. In 1999 and 2000 Samuel served as organist at First Presbyterian

Church of Fargo. In January 2003, Mr. Metzger was appointed Senior Organist at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Dr. D. James Kennedy, Senior Pastor. Along with his duties as organist, he is regularly heard in concert around the country. Samuel is known for his warm and engaging lecture concerts where he performs a wide variety of musical styles. He can also be seen each week on the Coral Ridge Hour, a TV program that is seen each week in the USA by 3 million people and is broadcast internationally to 202 countries.

(story continued on page 2)

## Message From the Dean

Friends,

What an event! The Piano/Organ Duet program at First Presbyterian on March 25 was phenomenal!!!



The church was full of eager listeners, the organists were brilliant, the program had incredible variety, and the organ shone! Everyone was beaming, it

was a great day to be an organist!

At this point in our program year, I must congratulate and thank everyone who organized, played in, and contributed to the programs of this season. The entire program year was a gift to the membership and to the community.

Is there a program you would like to see on the schedule for next year? Something special you would like to hear?

The program committee has not yet set our next season, so there is still time for your suggestions. Send program suggestions to [rvago@hotmail.com](mailto:rvago@hotmail.com) or to me at [vsieben@cableone.net](mailto:vsieben@cableone.net).

On another note, April is election month for the RRV AGO. Expect to see a ballot for 2007-2008 officer elections in your mail about mid-month. Please complete and return your ballot promptly, as new officers are to be announced and installed at our potluck get-together on May 6. The 2007-2008 term begins July 1.

April showers? I am looking forward to daffodils and tulips, if the deer don't get them all. Spring appears to be early this year, I hope you get a chance to enjoy it.

~Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

## Organist Guild Lunch Club

- ~First Friday of the month at Noon
- ~Fargo downtown Fryin' Pan Restaurant
- ~Everyone is welcome!

## Chapter Officers

- Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben
- Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
- Secretary: Ruth Discher
- Treasurer: Lance Johnson

## Board Members at Large

- 2007: Brad Steen
- 2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon
- 2009: Ruth Strawn, Alpha Roeszler

## Letters to the Editor

**FOUND:** An LP of souvenir excerpts of the organ dedication recital at St. John's Church in Wahpeton, June 12, 1966.

Organ architect: Eric A Fiss. Organist: Harold J Pavelis. I found this album at my family's lake cottage this summer.

My father said that the organ was stored in my grandfather's Twin City Roofing warehouse in Wahpeton, hence the gift of the record. The program from the recital was also in the sleeve. It's an interesting piece of history from 40 years ago. The program lists the featured organist, Rev. Harold Pavelis, as a graduate and former instructor at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, pastor at that time of St. James Church, Randall, MN. The organ builder was Aug. Laukhuff, Weikersheim, Germany. The disposition, specification, architectural design, casework and tonal finishing are credited to Eric A Fiss, Fargo, ND. I brought this album to a first Friday lunch meeting, and of particular interest was a French baroque suite, the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement being "Bottom and Top of the Trumpet" by Louis-Nicolas Clerambault.



So... Did anyone attend? Does anyone know anything about the organ at the time, or the featured organist? If you know anything about this organ dedication, write in, and let us know.

~Vicky Wms Sieben

### Upcoming Conference

We invite you to attend the Lilly Fellows Regional conference, "Singing God's Song Faithfully: Implications for Music and Theology Faculty Seeking to Prepare Music Leadership for the Church." The conference will be held at the University of Notre Dame, April 12-14, 2007. A registration fee of \$125 will provide materials and food costs during the conference.

The conference is intended for church musicians, music and theology faculty, and other persons interested in/responsible for planning and implementing worship services.

Information about the conference can be found at:  
[www.lillyfellows.org/regional\\_conferences.htm](http://www.lillyfellows.org/regional_conferences.htm)

We look forward to stimulating conversation about how the worship life of the church can be enriched through song.

~Dr. Charlotte Kroeker, Conference Director

~Dr. Craig Cramer, Professor of Music, University of Notre Dame

*(story continued from page 1)*

Mr. Metzger has published his festival hymn arrangements for organ and choir, organ transcriptions and has recorded several CDs.

Samuel's program at First Presbyterian will include virtuoso compositions by Bach and Mulet. Also included will be a segment which will include "Great Hymns of Faith". One of the highlights of the program will be a transcription of "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saëns.

Admission for the concert will be \$5.00 at the door. First Presbyterian Church is located at 650 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N, Fargo (Ph. 701-293-6311).

## Board Meeting Notes

March 15, 2007: The Red River Valley Chapter of AGO board met at Boulger Funeral Home. The meeting was called to order by President Vicky Sieben. Members present were Vicky, Lance Johnson, Ruth Strawn, and Robyn Vinje.

The minutes of the February meeting had previously been circulated; Lance moved, and Robyn seconded, that they be approved as printed.

Lance gave the treasurer's report. We have \$524.45 in the checking account, all bills paid, and earned interest of \$16.05 on our investments. We will be receiving \$1000 from the FM Foundation for the Paul Jacobs concert, which is considerably less than Lance had hoped for.

Lance stated that we won't be able to have big-name concerts in the future without using our savings. He feels that we should use local artists most of the time, and then sponsor a well-known organist every 5-6 years.

Members who agreed to serve on the program committee for 2007-08 are Sue Knorr, Mavis Tjon, Lance Johnson, Gerald Parker, and Solveig Bartz. Our by-laws state that the dean serves on this committee, and Vicky agreed to serve as chair. We discussed topics for programs for the coming year, including "organ for pianists" (Sue Knorr?), organ crawl in Fergus Falls, a music exchange, and "cataloguing your music".

Lance suggested we solicit members in Fergus Falls, as

there are many organists there. Names of potential local members are Shelly Cummings and Deb Selland of Ascension Lutheran in Moorhead, and Judy Coughlin at Bethlehem Lutheran in Fargo.

Nominations for board members-at-large are Steve Enebo and Gaylord Fagerland (2010), Sonja Carlson (Lance's sister) (2009). Vicky stated that the ballots will be mailed this year, since the electronic voting last year did not work real well. According to our by-laws, the nominations are to be announced in March, voting is to take place in April, and installation of the new officers is to be in May.

Our next program will be Sunday, March 25, at First Presbyterian Church, with Sally Harmon as chair of the organ-piano duets. This program is being billed by the church as one of the events celebrating their new Schantz organ. Dawn Papenfuss is assisting Sally with the program, and Carolyn Hensrud is handling publicity.

The Region VI AGO convention will be held June 18-21, 2007, in Lincoln Nebraska. We purchased a 1/4 page ad in the program for \$165.

Lance moved we adjourn, Robyn seconded. The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Vinje, Secretary pro tem

### AGO Region VI Convention

Region VI AGO Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 18-21, 2007. "Winds on the Prairie" will be four days of world-famous organists, interesting clinicians and workshop leaders, two beautiful cities to see, and, most important, world-famous organists playing the newest organs in Lincoln and Omaha.

These organists include: Paul Jacobs, James David Christie, Victoria R. Sirota, Samuel Gaskin, 14-year-old organ prodigy from Beaumont, Texas, Jeffrey Blesch, David Spicer, Marie Rubis Bauer, Jonas Nordwall, and Brett Valiant. Check out our website at [www.agolincoln.org](http://www.agolincoln.org).

**Help Wanted:** Sr. Choir Director at Elim Lutheran Church. Salary commensurate with experience. If interested, please contact Pastor Sue at 701.232.2574 or [elim@elimlutheran.org](mailto:elim@elimlutheran.org).

## Event Updates

### Organ/Piano Duet Program



First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Special thanks to  
*Jack Discher*  
for all of the fabulous  
event photos!



Dawn Papenfuss



Vicky Wms Sieben



Lavonne Rustad



Carolyn Hensrud



Organ Console

## Bach to Earth Day...



drifting mists, boisterous winds, roaring rivers, waves that ebb and flow, leaves falling from a tree, a beautiful sunset, bells that ring for the dying... one hears and sees all this in Bach's music...

Dear AGO Members:

April 23, 2007, will mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. Schweitzer's *Declaration of Conscience*, an important speech broadcast to the world over Radio Oslo, pleading for the abolition of nuclear weapons. He ended his speech, saying, "The end of further experiments with atom bombs would be like the early sun-rays of hope which suffering humanity is longing for." (Read speech on <http://TennesseePlayers.org>)

And Sunday, April 22, 2007, is Earth Day, the world's premiere global environmental celebration, held on 22 April every year since 1970. Each year millions of students and educators participate in Earth Day through a week-long educational prelude to Earth Day.

To commemorate both these events we have proposed to the local AGO Chapters that they present our Multimedia Musical Dramatization, *Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach*, on Sunday evening, April 22. This can be AGO's contribution to the events celebrating Earth Day in 2007.

It is only fitting that Albert Schweitzer be an important part of Earth Day because he was an early environmentalist of heroic proportions. Rachel Carson, who dedicated her landmark book, *Silent Spring*, to Dr. Schweitzer, said,

"To me, Dr. Schweitzer is the one truly great individual our modern times have produced."

To illustrate the importance of our acclaimed production, it will be presented September 10, 2006 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Somerset, Pennsylvania, to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the crash of Flight 93.

That production is being co-sponsored by the church and the 911 Committee. Officials of the city realize that Dr. Schweitzer's philosophy of *Reverence for Life*, as illustrated in our acclaimed production, is very appropriate to be a major part of their commemoration of this tragedy in American history.

When Dr. Schweitzer's daughter read the letter from the church, she told me she was greatly moved and said, "This shows what an important production this is and how people feel about it." She has seen the production six times since its premiere in 1995 and says, "It is one of the most important means today to keep my father's life and work known."

Washington National Cathedral presented the 100th performance of our internationally acclaimed Multimedia Musical Dramatization, *Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach*. The 10th Anniversary production a few months later featured organist Gail Archer along with actor Hugh O'Brian and Naomi Tutu (daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu).

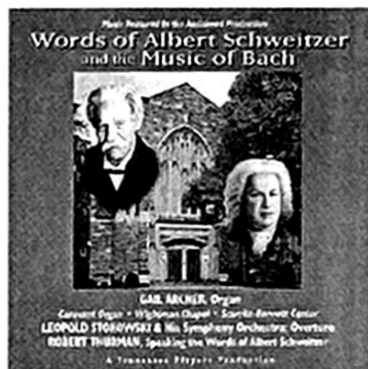
Other notables who have appeared in our production include author and Tibetan scholar (Columbia University) Robert Thurman; Tony Award winner Hal Linden; former Miss America, Lee Meriwether; NPR morning announcers Jean Cochran and Carl Kasell... ministers, state senators, and university presidents.

Next March an AGO production in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, will feature Martin Bookspan, longtime announcer of the "Live from Lincoln Center" broadcasts, speaking the words of Dr. Schweitzer. People are honored to be a part of it.

Organists who have played include Eric Suter, Washington Cathedral; Mireille Lagacé (Canadian), Central Presbyterian Church, Denver; David Goode, First Congregational Church of Los Angeles; Rick Erickson and Gail Archer, Holy Trinity Lutheran, NYC; and Christa Rakich, First Church of Christ, Wethersfield, CT.

Churches -- both small and large -- have successfully presented this timely and compelling production. The church or

school presenting it uses their own readers and organist(s). (There have been up to seven organists for one performance!) We loan the scripts, the CD for the PowerPoint presentation of 276 images, and the CD of the recorded symphonic overture.



The latest CD from Tennessee Players: "Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach."

Gail Archer recorded the music of the production and selected words of Dr. Schweitzer, taken from the script, are spoken by noted Tibetan scholar, Robert Thurman. This CD can be a fundraiser for AGO activities. See CD information on Tennessee Players' website. It is listed at \$14.95 plus S/H but you can order a review copy for \$9.95 postpaid.

Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Bach scholar, and humanitarian, was a rare and gifted individual and his words are more relevant today than when he spoke them more than 40 years ago. His philosophy of *Reverence for Life* has never been more urgent. We need a Schweitzer among us today!

We are a regular advertiser in *The American Organist* and I thank you for your interest in and support of our work

Sincerely,

Thurston Moore, President, Tennessee Players, Inc.

*Words of Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach*



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## Upcoming Events

**September 17, 2006, 4:00 PM**

Membership Meeting and Music Exchange  
Messiah Lutheran, Fargo

**October 15, 2006, 4:00 PM**

Funeral Music Program  
St. John Lutheran, Fargo

**December 3, 2006, 7:00 PM**

Christmas Hymn Sing  
Peace Lutheran, Fargo

**February 11, 2007, 4:00 PM**

Wedding Music Program  
Grace United Methodist, Moorhead

**March 25, 2007, 4:00 PM**

Organ/Piano Duet Program  
First Presbyterian, Fargo

**May 6, 2007, 4:00 PM**

Membership Potluck  
Vicky Wms Sieben Home, Moorhead



## Contact Information

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