



THE PIPELINE

January-February 2021

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Diamond Anniversary Committee

Dillon J. Swanson, Chairman

Alex P. Swanson, Secretary

Bradley Steen Michael Olson

Susan Clambey Dr. Jean Hellner

Ryan Hardy

Message from the Dean

Submitted by Michael Olson



Happy New Year, one and all – and we're all hoping and praying and wishing that 2021 will be a far better year than 2020 turned out to be.

Thanks to each one of you for being a member of this great organization we call the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We love great organ and choral music, and we are doing our very best to serve our congregations in all kinds of interesting ways these days and weeks and months with virtual worship and, in some cases, in-person worship.

A "first": for me in 2020 was driving home to Omaha on Christmas Eve morning, something I had never done in my life before. It was great to spend Christmas Eve evening with my mother, and then my sister and her dog joined us on Christmas Day evening. We had Christmas Eve virtual worship from First Lutheran Church in Fargo on Monday afternoon, December 28. We celebrated Holy Communion as a family and lit candles and sang Silent Night. I hadn't worshiped on Christmas Eve with my family in seemingly forever – so that, actually, was a very good thing!

Thanks to all those people involved with the Virtual Christmas Carol Sing in December. Because of the virtual recording session at First Lutheran Church the same evening as the carol sing, I was with the AGO musicians in spirit this time.

A very BIG thank you goes out to Ruth Discher for her years of serving as *Pipeline* editor. She did a masterful job in creating a great newsletter for all of us to read and to enjoy. Thanks as well to Alpha Roeszler, Ruth's faithful proofreader.

As we begin 2021, we were to have been in the second half of our AGO Diamond Anniversary celebration. We are planning on this celebration beginning in September 2021 – so stay tuned for further updates and details. Won't it be wonderful to attend concerts and recitals and events IN PERSON?

Thanks also to the other board members of our AGO chapter. This organization needs the hard, capable work of many people and I am so grateful to each of you and what you contribute to our organization.

God bless us, each and every member, throughout each day of this new year. We need music in our lives more than ever before, I am convinced.

Musically and sincerely,

Michael Olson

Message from the Sub-Dean

Submitted by Dillon J. Swanson



Greetings! I hope you have had a refreshing holiday season. I know I'm not alone when I say that this was, indeed, a very strange Advent and Christmas season without our usual list of extra services, programs, etc. I was, however, very pleased that despite the circumstances, we were still able to have a variation of our usual Christmas program streamed on Facebook Live. Be sure to check out the picture later on in this volume of the Pipeline!

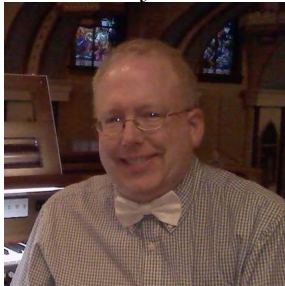
Be sure to check out our calendar of upcoming events as well to take advantage of our amazing programming.

In other news, I'm extremely delighted to announce that my first piece of published writing will be released this month! My article "*An Ethereal Choir in the Roof*": *Three Methods for Composing Descants* will appear in the Winter 2021 volume of the *CrossAccent. The Journal for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians*. The article covers three compositional methods I use when composing a creative and well-crafted descant for hymnody. Along with the methods and tips, I included three of my own compositions as examples.

If you are interested in participating in any of the upcoming programming or have programming ideas you'd like to be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, send me an email! I will be sure to respond promptly.

Secretary's Report

Submitted by Alex P. Swanson on behalf of Bradley J. Steen



Regular Executive Committee Meeting – 11/24/2020

A regular meeting of the RRVAGO Executive Committee was held via Zoom on the above date. Present were Michael Olson, Dillon J. Swanson, Alex P. Swanson, Dr. Jean Hellner, and Ryan Hardy. Absent was Bradley J. Steen. The meeting was called to order by Sub-Dean Dillon J. Swanson at 7:02pm. No agenda was prepared for this meeting due to the short notice of the meeting. Alex Swanson moved to approve the secretary's report as printed in the *Pipeline* and the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by

Ryan Hardy; motion carried.

Old Business:

Christmas Carol Sing-Along: The filming has been shifted to Tuesday, December 8th at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral in Fargo. The cathedral's new choir director, Dr. Kira Winter, has been recommended to join our chapter, as has Oliver Knudson, the new organ performance major from Concordia College. Both individuals will be performing in the sing-along. Only 10 people will be allowed to perform this year due to COVID restrictions.

New Business:

Ruth Discher has submitted a resignation from her position as Editor of the *Pipeline*, as has Alpha Roeszler from her position of Proof-Reader of the *Pipeline*. Michael Olson moved, seconded by Jean to accept their resignations and appoint Dillon J. Swanson as the new Editor and Alex P. Swanson as the new Proof-Reader. The secretary will send a thank you note to both Ruth and Alpha for their 8 years of service to the chapter.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled in January, with a date to be determined. There being no further business, Alex P. Swanson moved to adjourn, seconded by Ryan Hardy. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

A. P. Swanson

Alex P. Swanson, Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Alex P. Swanson



Regular Treasurer's Report For the period October 1 – December 31, 2020

BEGINNING BALANCE – Checking (October 1, 2020) \$5,484.82

INCOME

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/13	National A.G.O. for membership dues	33.00
12/11	National A.G.O. for membership dues	<u>100.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 133.00

EXPENDITURES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Payable To/Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/26	1005	The Arts Partnership	60.00
12/11	Debit Card	N. D. Sec'y of State for annual filing fee	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			\$ 70.00

Net Profit (Loss) 63.00

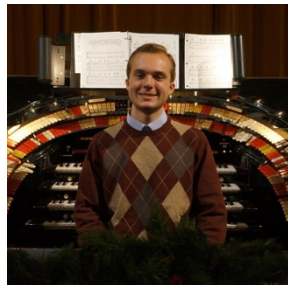
ENDING BALANCE (December 31, 2020) \$5,547.82

A. P. Swanson

Alex P. Swanson, Treasurer

Chapter Administrator's Report

Submitted by Alex P. Swanson



Many of you were likely unaware of this position until reading this headline. I was as well, until taking it over from Bradley J. Steen in early 2020. The Chapter Administrator manages the chapter's online account on the National A.G.O. website. The duties include updating the officer roster, keeping the chapter checking account number up-to-date so membership dues can be direct-deposited from National, and the National office automatically keeps an online membership roster up-to-date which is accessible through this account. Membership record are available extending back to July 1, 1998, and these have been a valuable resource in

tracking down former members for our upcoming Diamond Anniversary celebration activities.

The chapter membership roster totaled 25 members on December 31, 2020. We began the year 2020 with 26 paid members, so we are very close to where we were a year ago.

Membership Breakdown

Regular (voting)	9
Special	9
Young Organist	5
Dual Member	2
<u>Chapter Friend</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	25

Chapter Happenings

Submitted by Alex P. Swanson & Dillon J. Swanson



RRVAGO & RRTOS Join Forces at Chalk Fest

The September 19th Arts Partnership “Chalk Fest” event at the Red River Zoo was every bit enjoyable by those who attended as it was useful as an advertising outlet for both organ clubs. A baptism-by-fire setup of the RRVAGO portative organ was the experience of Ryan Hardy, Alex Swanson, and Dillon Swanson, who assembled the instrument underneath a tent provided by the Arts Partnership (TAP).

The organ is now complete with the recently built, 5-note Holzprinzipal extension. Dylan Thiele, the youngest member of RRTOS arrived mid-day and a great number of intrigued event attendees, many of whom were children, were drawn to the joint-club booth through the entertainment of short songs and medleys played on the portative. The attendees were each encouraged to play it themselves and it was more than likely all of these people’s first time playing a pipe organ.

It is unknown as to when the portative organ was last used by our chapter for a public appearance, but it has at least been since July 2015, when it was put into storage. The ease of assembly of the instrument and obvious portability (hence its name), we look forward to using it regularly for such events in the coming years.



RRVAGO presents Christmas program at Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral

On Tuesday, December 8th, members of the RRVAGO along with the clergy and staff of Gethsemane teamed up to live-stream a program called “You Shall Have a Song”: A Night of Music and Carols, from the Cathedral’s sanctuary. The program featured scripture readings, reflections, prayers, carols, and other musical offerings.

Participants included Fr. Mark Strobel, Dean of the Cathedral; Dr. Kira Winter, Choir Director at the Cathedral and Professor of Music at Concordia College; Professor Andrew Steinberg, Instructor of Organ at Concordia College & Sanctuary Worship Director and Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead; Oliver Knudson, Organ Major at Concordia College; and board members Alex P. Swanson, Dillon J. Swanson, and Ryan Hardy. You can still watch this program on-demand and follow the PDF bulletin as well on our Facebook page.

Announcements

WELCOME RETURNING AND NEW MEMBERS!!

Please join us and welcoming returning members Prof. Andrew Steinberg and Dr. Gerald Parker, and new member Oliver Knudson! Prof. Andrew Steinberg has assumed the role of Instructor of Organ at Concordia College and has rejoined our chapter. Many of you may remember Dr. Parker from his years of service on various committees, the Executive Committee, and most prominently, his role with the Regional Convention in 2001. Lastly, Oliver Knudson is a newly declared organ performance major at Concordia College. Welcome!!

THANK YOU TO RUTH DISCHER & ALPHA ROESZLER

The RRVAGO would like to extend its many thanks to Ruth Discher and Alpha Roeszler for their 8 years of dedicated service to the chapter with their work on the *Pipeline*. Your work has been greatly appreciated over the years!



FAREWELL TO RYAN HARDY

It is with great sadness, that we say farewell to chapter member and Executive Committee member Ryan Hardy. Ryan will begin serving as Music and Liturgy Director at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City, South Dakota this month. We have been very blessed to have him here in the Red River Valley, but we are even more proud to see him obtain such a prestigious position. Congratulations, Ryan!

CHAPTER HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

The History Book Committee, consisting of our Chapter Archivists Alex P. Swanson & Dr. Jean Hellner would like to thank everyone who has contributed materials for the history book thus far, and a full list of people will be published within the book.

They are currently working on it and still hope to have it printed by springtime of this year and more details will be printed in upcoming issues of the *Pipeline*.

ANNUAL RRTOS 'HOLIDAY PIPES' CONCERTS PREMIERE ON YOUTUBE

The age-old tradition of offering noon-hour Christmas concerts on the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Fargo Theatre was not stifled by COVID-19 this year, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ryan Hardy, President, who was cameraman, editor, and producer extraordinaire for this year's Holiday Pipes series, which was premiered on the Red River Theatre Organ Society's YouTube channel.

Four of the five organists who performed this year are also RRVAGO members, and the performers included Michael Olson, Lance Johnson, Alex P. Swanson, Dillon J. Swanson, and Dylan Thiele.

If you have not yet had the chance to enjoy these concerts, they are perpetually available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJCGeO9xy9nBc4N3AdG941A>

And lastly, a belated MERRY CHRISTMAS to the RRVAGO from your friends in the Red River Theatre Organ Society!

CHAPTER YEARBOOK AND COMMITTEES MAKE A COMEBACK

We sure hope you enjoyed the bringing back of the RRVAGO chapter yearbook, which has not been published since the 2007-08 program season.

The yearbook committee would love to hear your comments, questions, and concerns about the yearbook and its content, as we plan to continue publishing these annually and want them to be as useful as to the membership as possible.

One item worth mentioning in the yearbook is the chapter's by-laws ("Operating Procedures") as they have not been published for many years and have now been updated and amended by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is in the process of resurrecting the many chapter committees, most of which have lain vacant these past few years. If you have any interest in serving on committees, please refer to them in the yearbook and let anyone on the Executive Committee know. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Alex P. Swanson and Dillon J. Swanson
Yearbook Committee (2020-2021)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO PRESENT OFFICER SLATE IN MARCH/APRIL ISSUE OF THE *PIPELINE*

A nominating committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee and their slate of candidates will be officially presented in the March/April issue of the *Pipeline*, per our chapter Operating Procedures. If you are asked to serve and accept a nomination and serve our chapter through holding office, please consider saying, "Yes!" and take the current Executive Committee's word for it when we say how much fun it can be.

The method of this year's election has yet to be decided but will also be announced in the March/April issue of the *Pipeline*.

Composer's Corner

Submitted by Dillon J. Swanson



Herbert (Norman) Howells
(1892 – 1983)

Herbert Howells was an English composer and teacher. The youngest of six children, he showed early musical promise and announced his intention of becoming a composer while still a young child. Although the Howells family was not wealthy, thanks to the generosity of a local landowner he was able to study with Brewer at Gloucester Cathedral. In 1912, Howells won an open scholarship to the RCM where his principal teachers were Charles Villiers Stanford (composition) and Charles Wood (counterpoint).

There, he came under the influence of Parry, whose philosophy and humanity inspired a deep and lasting affection. Howells was one of the most brilliant and technically gifted students., and after only a few weeks, on Stanford's recommendation, his Mass in the Dorian Mode was sung in Westminster Cathedral. Stanford was an important figure in his early career, describing him as his 'son in music'.

Severe ill-health cut short Howells's first appointment (sub-organist at Salisbury Cathedral) in 1917, and for a time he was not expected to live. During his years of convalescence, 1917-20, the Carnegie Trust employed him to assist in the editing of Tudor manuscripts, and procured for him a teaching appointment at the RCM (where he remained until well into his 80s). From 1936 to 1962 he was director of music at St. Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, where he succeeded Gustav

Holst, and in 1950, he was appointed King Edward VII Professor of Music at London University, playing a central role in the establishment of a full-time honours school of music. From 1941-1945 he deputized for Robin Orr as organist of St. John's College, Cambridge. He rose quickly to fame as a composer of songs, chamber music, and orchestral pieces, but his extensive contribution to cathedral music, which in later years dominated his reputation, did not begin until the late 1940s.

Howells's mature style skillfully interweaves a number of strands. Of his formative influences, probably the most important were modal counterpoint, derived from Tudor models, Elgar his elegiac aspects and Vaugh Williams. These quintessentially English ingredients are mixed with an un-English technical assurance and made piquant by richly sensuous harmonies, arguably more French in origin (he knew Ravel).

Howells had a lifelong love of cathedral architecture and most of his church music was written for specific buildings, choirs, and individuals. In the sacred works, he found the perfect niche for his languid romanticism, a love of choral texture and resonant acoustics, in music of chromatic sensuousness. He created an ecclesiastical style for the 20th century as Stanford had done for the 19th. The essentially reflective, introvert and nostalgic nature of the office of Evensong found echoes in Howell's own persona, and at the heart of his religious music stand 16 settings for the canticles, of which those for King's College, Cambridge (*Collegium Regale*, 1945), Gloucester (1946), and St. Paul's Cathedral (1951) have established firm places in the repertory. His distinguished body of organ music includes four rhapsodies, two sets of psalm-preludes and two sonatas, the second (1932) being his largest and most important solo work.

Andrews, Paul. "Howells, Herbert." [Grove Music Online](#). 2001. Oxford University Press.

Herbert Howells is one of my favorite composers in the organ repertory. For those of you who are interested in looking at some of his music, I've included a complete list of organ works and would suggest that one starts with either set of the 3 Psalm-Preludes. His most notable is the Psalm-Prelude on Psalm 23, Verse 4 (Set I: Op. 32, No. 3).

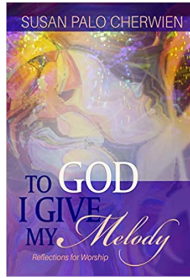
Sonata in c, Op. 1 (1911)
 3 Psalm-Preludes Set I, Op. 32 (1915-16)
 Rhapsody, Op. 17, No. 1 (1915)
 Rhapsody, Op. 17, No. 2 (1918)
 Rhapsody, Op. 17, No. 3 (1918)
 Sonata (No. 2) (1932)
 3 Psalm-Preludes Set II (1938-39)
 Fugue, Chorale and Epilogue (1939)
 Master Tallis's Testament (1940)
 Preludio Sine Nomine (1940)
 Saraband for the Morning of Easter (1940)
 Paean (1940)

Intrata (No. 2) (1941)
 Saraband in Modo Elegiaco (1945)
 Prelude De profundis (1958)
 Rhapsody No. 4 (1958)
 2 Pieces, 1959: Dalby's Fancy, Dalby's Toccata;
 A Flourish for a Bidding, 1969
 Partita (1971-2)
 Epilogue (c 1971)
 St. Louis comes to Clifton (1977)
 6 Short Pieces (1987)
 2 Slow Airs (1987)
 Miniatures (1993)

Recommended Resources & Music

Submitted by Dillon J. Swanson

BOOKS

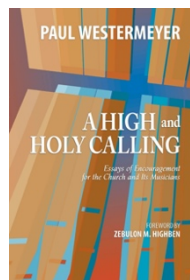


To God I Give My Melody: Reflections for Worship

By Susan Palo Cherwien

Morning Star (ISBN 978-0-944529-79-9), \$26.00.

The third volume in the popular series of Susan Palo Cherwien's meditations for hymn festivals, worship services, and for your own private reading. This volume includes suggested hymn festival outlines that served as the inspiration for the meditations found in the book as well as a basic template for structuring such festivals. Susan Palo Cherwien's writing is some of the most theologically sound and eloquent literature in this genre today. This is a highly-recommended resource!

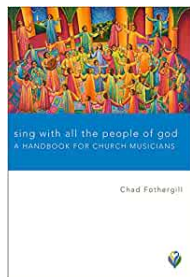


A High and Holy Calling: Essays of Encouragement of the Church and its Musicians

By Paul Westermeyer

Morning Star (978-0-944529-77-5), \$16.00.

The latest book from revered church musician Paul Westermeyer offers insight and perspective applicable to anyone working in the church music setting. This volume contains collected reflections, essays, and articles previously published in journals such as *The Hymn* and *CrossAccent*, along with entirely new chapters. To quote the foreword by Zebulon Highben: "This is Westermeyer at his most pastoral, offering a word of solace, support, and inspiration."



Sing with All the People of God: A Handbook for Church Musicians

By Chad Fothergill

Augsburg Fortress (ISBN 978-1-506469-23-2), \$9.99.

Sing with all the People of God by Chad Fothergill will be especially valuable for church musicians as well as pastors and other rostered leaders. It addresses topics such as skillful preparation, planning, and leadership of assembly song, working with volunteer musicians and staff, navigating questions of musical style, and more. This is a quick read from a fresh point of view!

ORGAN MUSIC

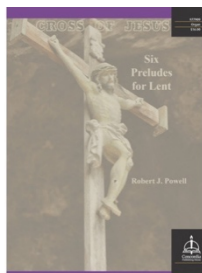


Partita on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Michael Burkhardt

Morning Star (10-202), \$8.50

Chorale, Bicinium, Rondo, Capriccio, Pastorale, and Toccata on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN. Each setting within the partita illustrates the 6 stanzas of the hymn found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The settings are exciting, creative, and reflective making this a must-have for Epiphany and the Sundays after.

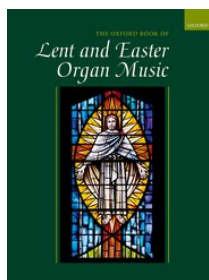


Cross of Jesus: Six Preludes for Lent

Robert J. Powell

Concordia Publishing House (977909), \$16.00

Robert J. Powell has composed a brand new, well-crafted, and accessible collection for Lent. This book offers settings that are appropriate to the season, such as “Go to Dark Gethsemane,” “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now,” and “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow.” The final setting, “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me,” offers a joyful, majestic ending to an otherwise somber piece.

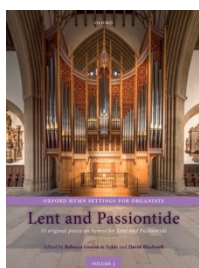


The Oxford Book of Lent and Easter Music

Ed. Robert Gower

Oxford University Press (ISBN 978-0-193386-23-5), \$33.95.

This resource contains 34 pieces for organ, suitable for use from Lent through Pentecost covering the 17th to 21st centuries. Music from major historic composer including Scheidt, Bach, Mendelssohn, and Reger, as well as 20th century luminaries Harris and Leighton and contemporary figures. This volume includes commissions, transcriptions and editions of classics.

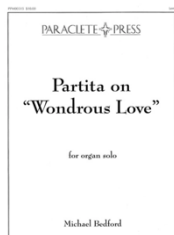


Oxford Hymn Settings for Organists: Lent & Passiontide

Ed. Rebecca Groom te Velde and David Blackwell

Oxford University Press (ISBN 978-0-193393-47-9), \$30.95

35 fresh, imaginative new pieces on all the major hymn tunes for the season, written by a range of experienced organ composers based in the US and the UK, and displaying a great variety of styles and approaches. This practical, concise settings for all part of the church services are suitable for the busy church musician at the intermediate level working in all major denominations. Some pieces are also suitable for recital use with registration suggestions that can readily be adapted to suit most instruments.



Partita on “Wondrous Love”

Michael Bedford

Paraclete Press (0515), \$10.00

Chorale, Cantilena, Canon at the Fifth, Trio and Fugue on “What Wondrous Love is This” WONDROUS LOVE. This artfully crafted partita based on one of the church’s most beloved hymn tunes makes a lovely Lenten prelude or offertory. Michael Bedford was the 1st place winner of the Ninth Biennial Competition for the 2004 AGO/E.C. Schirmer Publishing Award in Choral Composition. He currently serves as the National President of the American Guild of Organists.

Deux Chorals, JA 67-68

Jehan Alain

Paris: H. Hérèle & Cie., 1938. (Public Domain)

Available on IMSLP

Deux Chorals, or *Two Chorales* composed by 20th century composer Jehan Alain are two very approachable works that compliment any organist’s library and add a new color to your Lent repertoire.

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st, 2021 at 3pm: RECITAL

Join Sub-Dean, Dillon J. Swanson for a recital live-streamed on our Facebook page from the Schantz organ at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. Dillon will play works by Bach, Buxtehude, Burkhardt, more.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 2021 at 3pm: SWANSON DUO CONCERT

Organists Dillon J. Swanson and Alex P. Swanson join forces for a piano & organ duo concert. This livestreamed concert will feature pieces based on hymn tunes as well as some classical music arranged for the instrument combo.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st, 2021 at 3pm: BACH BIRTHDAY BASH

Details TBD.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18th, 2021 at 3pm: DILLON J. SWANSON, JUNIOR RECITAL

Join Sub-Dean, Dillon J. Swanson as he presents a Junior Recital for his Organ Performance degree at Concordia College from the Holtkamp organ at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. This recital is performed in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance. The program will include works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Reger, Alain, Widor, and Duruflé.

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