

Members' Recital 2015

The Twin Cities American Guild of Organists presented its 2015 Members' Organ Recital on Friday evening, May 1. Resident Musician Jane Horn invited us to St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington to share the sounds of the splendid 48-rank Reuter organ.

Thanks to our performers: Jennifer Anderson, Matt Bacon, Stephen Hamilton, Samuel Holmberg, Jane Horn, Grant Johnson, Ben Kerswell, Sharon Kleckner, Geoff Olson, Jonathan Orwig, Jeff Patry and William J. William. In addition, thanks are due to "Mike's Brass" for the pre-concert music and participating in this event.

And a big "thank you" to our hospitality committee, under the guidance of Carsten Slostad and Bjorn Gustafson, for the social time and reception after the recital.

The 2014-2015 program year closed with a diversity of performers, genres and composers. Watch for more information announcing our 2015-2016 program year.



The next issue of *Pipenotes* will be dated September 2015.

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Pipenotes
American Guild of Organists – Twin Cities Chapter
www.tcago.org



Dean's Column

Paul Westermeyer

I have been doing some research that seems worth sharing with you.

In July, Eileen Gunther and I are giving two lectures on the topic of her book, *Rivals or a Team? Church-Musician Relationships in the Twenty-First Century*. My part of the assignment is historical, with examples. It is not hard to find bad examples, the ones we hear about at every conference we attend. But, though often hidden, there are also good examples. (The hidden quality is not only a Christian reality. As the composer Mohammed Fairouz says, "Peace never makes headlines.") Here are two good examples from the nineteenth century in this country.

Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth lived at the center of a stimulating swirl of study among well-known men, among them her grandfather, father, and husband. Her son was Sigmund Spaeth, the twentieth-century musicologist who wrote about and composed music, hosted radio shows, and was a regular on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz.

Harriet did her own scholarly work. When she was only twenty-three she ably provided music from Germanic and English sources for the Lutheran *Church Book* (1868). It was published as the *Church Book with Music* (1872). Rivalry came, not likely of her making, in the form of a book called *Church Song* (1875). It was prepared by a pastor and his organist, Joseph Seiss and Charles Engelmann, who, with part of their congregation in Philadelphia, broke off and formed a new congregation. (We do not have a corner on this kind of thing.)

In addition to her work on *The Church Book*, she translated German and Scandinavian hymns, and she was the organist for many years at St. Stephen's



Church in the vicinity of the University of Pennsylvania. She is hard to trace, partly because there is no history of St. Stephen's so far as I can tell, partly because she was a nineteenth-century woman in the midst of well-known men, but mostly because she collaborated with others with her own good work, serving as a church organist without a concern for how well she was or was not known. That is what needs to be highlighted.

In 1883 William Benbow, another little-known figure from this period, came to Trinity Church in Reading, Pennsylvania, as their Organist and Choirmaster. He stayed for thirty years and then went to Holy Trinity in Buffalo, New York. He wrote hymn tunes, thought out church music, and made this telling comment: "the experience of the centuries has proven that music having an easy and delightful swing and well-sugared is the kind that people will love most readily and afterward loathe most heartily."

It is hard to conceive of such a statement from someone who had not faithfully served people as a church musician in tandem with the clergy. That is exactly what he did. He got high marks from the churches he served.

Benbow also illustrates the importance of teamwork (unknown to those who do it) across generations, before him and after him. Before him, for over a century until 1873, a Tanneberg organ was in use at Trinity in Reading. After him, his successor was Henry Seibert who studied with him, then with Pietro Yon, and then went to Holy Trinity in New York. Seibert's successor, Carroll Hartline, studied with Seibert, "thus beginning" what the author of the history of Trinity calls "the third generation of the splendid Benbow influence." Fine musicians also followed Benbow at Holy Trinity in Buffalo, among them Roberta Bitgood and John Becker.

As we break for summer, be of good courage and good cheer. Ours is a high and holy calling, and we have some good mentors.

TCAGO Board Election Results

Dean	Paul Westermeyer
Sub-dean	David Jenkins
Treasurer	David Geslin
Secretary	Dee Ann Crossley

Board members (Class of 2018)

Linda Armstrong, Margaret Gohman, Andrew Birling

New Member

Horn, Jane Kriel

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Bloomington, MN 55431

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janiehonk@gmail.com

Hymn Writing Competition

The Bethlehem Music Series announces a Hymn Writing Competition to open its 34th Season. The hymn tune must be original, not previously performed, not published, and must be suited for festival worship. The text may be original or pre-existing and it should contain a praise and celebration theme.

A cash prize of \$500.00 will be awarded to the winner and the winning hymn will be premiered at a Hymn Festival on Sunday, October 11, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. This hymn festival – *Let All the Earth Rejoice* – will be led by renowned organ improviser and composer Aaron David Miller.

Deadline for submission of manuscripts is July 30, 2015 and should be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. All entrants will be notified of the final decision. The judges reserve the right to not name a winner.

Any questions may be directed to Maria Bucka at 612-312-3411 or mbucka@bethlehem-church.org

Mail submissions to:

Hymn Writing Competition
Attn: Maria Bucka, Director of Music
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4100 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410



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Winnipeg Organ Festival – July 5-9

The organizing committee of the *Winnipeg Organ Festival* warmly invites you to attend this exciting July 5-9 event in your Canadian neighbor city just seven hours drive to the north. A wonderful program has been put together in collaboration with other musicians. So not only are there great organ recitals but there is a choral concert featuring the renowned group Canzona, organ and sax, Bach and poetry, a grand finale with James David Christie of Boston and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and much more!

With a strong US dollar against the CAD, your dollar buys you 25% more so this becomes even more attractive from a financial perspective.

We would love to see you....and don't forget that the world class Canadian Museum for Human Rights has recently opened in Winnipeg to much acclaim as well as the amazing *Journey to Churchill* at Assiniboine Park. In addition, Winnipeg is one of only two North American cities to host the classical antiquities display *Olympus: The Greco-Roman Collections of Berlin* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

Information is available at

www.winnipegorganfestival.ca



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"TCAGO through the Decades" 1980s, Part I

Jerry Bonstrom, Archivist

A highlight of this decade was our hosting of the national AGO Convention from June 16-20, 1980. Howard Don Small, convention chairman, wrote in the beginning of the convention brochure: "Our program committee has planned a week full of inspiration, education, and just plain fun."

The men (18) and boys (33) choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England sang on six occasions. Here is a list of some of the other participating convention personalities from outside of Minnesota: Ronald Arnatt, David Craighead, Fenner Douglass, Philip Gehring, Alberto Ginastera, Robert Glasgow, Calvin Hampton, David Hurd, Gerhard Krapf, Martin Marty, Marilyn Mason, Larry Palmer, Karel Paukert, McNeil Robinson, Russell Saunders and Marianne Webb.

Byron Belt wrote a review in the August 1980 issue of *The American Organist*, pages 24-29. The review title was *AGO/80 – Twin Cities Convention: Stimulating, Inspiring, Exhausting*. He writes: "Quite possibly the most lasting contribution the Twin

Cities AGO Chapter made in conjunction with this latest national convention is in the realm of new music commissions.”

1980-81 Season

September 25 at 4:00 p.m. was the date and time for our first meeting of the season. There was a service at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church where Richard Waggoner, organist/choir director, conducted the senior choir. A social hour followed. We had *hors d'oeuvres* that were contributed by members.

Our October meeting was a two-day event. Eminent American composer Alice Parker conducted a workshop on October 10-11 in the Brady Center of the St. Paul Seminary. On Friday afternoon we heard examples and discussion of “Music for Male Chorus.” After dinner with Ms. Parker in the Seminary Refectory, we heard examples and discussion of “Music for Mixed Chorus.” On Saturday morning, we heard examples and discussion of “Creative Hymn Singing.”

Our November 9 meeting was an organ crawl. At 2:00 p.m., we met at St. Mark’s Roman Catholic Church to hear the new Hendrickson organ. Ruth Ferguson, Marcelyn Smale and Wayne Selleck performed. Our next stop was at Arlington Hills United Methodist Church where we heard their Phelps organ. Dick Greene, Helen Garvey Jenson and Jane Nienaber performed. Our last stop was at House of Hope Presbyterian church where we heard the new Fisk organ. Michael Barone, Randy Bourne and E. Lyle Hagert performed.

Our first meeting in 1981 was on January 25. We met at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis – John Ferguson, music director. It was part of Central’s *Abendmusik* Series and we heard a performance of several of the anthems commissioned from Minnesota Composers’ Forum members for the AGO Convention ’80.

On Monday, February 23 at 8:00 p.m., we heard a visiting professor from Cornell College, Iowa. Our dean, Elizabeth Stodala, knew Dr. Robert Triplett – concert organist – and wanted us to hear him speak on a topic for which he was considered an expert. The subject of his lecture: *Befriending Stagefright*. Besides music study, Dr. Triplett held a certificate in health resource counseling from North American College in California. In addition to his lecture, there was a business meeting and report on the AGO ’80 Convention. The meeting was held at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

We met at Mayflower Congregational Church, Minneapolis, on March 23 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was a panel discussion led by John Ferguson. The panel addressed the issues of maintaining musical integrity in the context of changing liturgical philosophy and our role as musicians. Other panel members were Rev. Leslie Pugh, Robert Posegate, Maxeine Posegate, Allan Mahnke and Elizabeth Stodola. A coffee hour followed the meeting.

Since there wasn’t an April meeting, our next and final meeting of the season took place at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul. The date was May 11. We began at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck supper. Following the meal, Martha Hopkins of the Evanston AGO chapter entertained us with her reflections on *Sex and Violence in the Choir Loft* and some humorous commentary on weddings. Election of officers was also part of our final meeting.



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Swedish Gospel Choir

Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church will welcome The Old Town Gospel Choir from Luleå, Sweden on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. The Choir is led by Emma Johansson, whose father – Lennart Johansson – founded the choir.



The concert is free and open to the public, and a brief reception follows.

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
100 North Oxford Street, St. Paul
www.stpaulref.org



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Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals 2015

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their ninth season this summer beginning July 1 and concluding on August 12. All seven recitals will be held on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with the following schedule:

Wednesday, July 1

Rosalie Alcoser, Music Director and Organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Rochester, will present a program of patriotic music.

First United Church of Christ,

Wednesday, July 8

John Ferguson, Emeritus Professor of Organ and Church Music at St. Olaf College
Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 15

Noah Klein, high school junior
Music & Drama Center, Carleton College

Wednesday, July 22

Joanne Rodland, retired organist and choir director
Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 29

Stephen May, Director of Music, Our Saviour's Episcopal Church in Faribault, and Lawrence Archbold, Carleton College
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Wednesday, August 5

Bob Henstein, Organist at Northfield United Methodist Church
Northfield United Methodist Church

Wednesday, August 12

Nathan Proctor, Organist/Director of Music, Worship and Arts, St. John's Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses. For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email him at rkcollman@msn.com



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Calendar of Events

June

Monday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.

We Contemplate the Mystery

A Hymn Festival with Michael Joncas

Richard Clarke, organist

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church

630 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

June 10-22

Pipedreams Tour – Historic Organs of Poland

June 14-19

Southern Plains POEA and POETech

University of Oklahoma

Norman, Oklahoma

Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.

Swedish Gospel Choir

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

100 North Oxford Street, St. Paul

June 22-24

North Central Regional AGO Convention

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July

Wednesday, July 1, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

Rosalie Alcoser, organist

First United Church of Christ

July 5-9

Winnipeg Organ Festival

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Wednesday, July 8, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

John Ferguson, organist

Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 15, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

Noah Klein, organist

Music & Drama Center, Carleton College

Wednesday, July 22, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

Joanne Rodland, organist

Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 29, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

Stephen May and Lawrence Archbold, organists

All Saints' Episcopal Church



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August

Wednesday, August 5, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

Bob Henstein, organist

Northfield United Methodist Church

Wednesday, August 12, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital Series

Nathan Proctor, organist

St. John's Lutheran Church

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September

September 7-14

American Pilgrimage Choir Tour
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Lynn Trapp, contact person
St. Olaf Catholic Church, Minneapolis

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October

October 10, 10:30 a.m.

Pipedreams Scholarship audition
Wayzata Community Church
125 Wayzata Blvd. East, Wayzata

October 23 - November 3

Pilgrimage of Faith, Heritage and Music
Jim Hild, contact person
All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka

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Pipenotes

is the official publication of the Twin Cities Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and is published nine times a year, September through June. December and January are combined.

Deadline date

Information for *Pipenotes* should be received no later than the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

Materials may be sent to [Merritt Nequette](#), editor.

Letters to the Editor

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Mail letters to [Merritt Nequette](#).

Pipedreams

For a listing of organ events statewide, access the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*. For both on-air and website listing of organ-related activities, send information to [Michael Barone](#), 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

MPR

Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar.

The top bar of the Classical MPR [main page](#) features an "Events" tab. Click on it to see a listing of current cultural events. Follow the instructions on the [calendar page](#) to "Submit a New Event."

This information will reach a different audience than the online TCAGO/*Pipedreams* calendars. It's a free self-service feature, another way to let people (including the Classical MPR program hosts) know about your classical music concerts.

By all means, continue to send information directly to [Michael Barone](#) too.

And we encourage you to regularly request organ selections on *Friday Favorites* with Steve Staruch. Promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming!

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