



From the Dean by Gerald Holbrook

There appears to be some misunderstandings concerning the recent letter that went out listing the board's recommendation for funeral fees. Apparently the letter was not worded clearly, as some people jumped to the conclusion that this recommended fee was for every funeral situation. Hopefully I can clarify that point and clear the waters.

1. When an organist who is on the staff of a church plays for a funeral in that church, the organist sets the fee. [This pertains to the fee the board recommended in the letter.]
2. When an organist plays for a funeral in a funeral home, the fee is negotiated between the organist and the funeral director. [This has no relation to the fee the board recommended in the letter.]

These are two separate situations!

The board is recommending the fee for the organist who plays for a funeral in a church. The board is not recommending fees for an organist playing a funeral in a funeral home.

There is also a concern about asking the family to pay much money for the music, as it is an additional financial burden on the bereaved. This is understandable. Certainly we are sensitive to death and the loss of loved ones. If an organist wants to charge nothing or a token amount out of the goodness of their heart, they are certainly welcome to do so – that is not the issue. However, funeral directors are sensitive too, but they are also in business and must get an income. Is it all right for them to profit, but not musicians? Playing the organ is our livelihood; we derive our incomes from this. Consider the investment we have made in order to play for a funeral: private lessons (for how many years?),

(Turn to FUNERALS, Page 2)

April AGO Meeting

Monday, April 28 – 7:30 p.m.

Hymnody – Rev. Donald Marsh, Presenter

Christ United Methodist Church

4530 A Street, Lincoln_

Plan Ahead . . .

(LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

Timothy Albrecht, Organist

Christ United Methodist Church

4530 A Street

May 4 – 4:00 p.m.

Details in the May *Chiff Chat*



(AGO SPRING PICNIC LOCATION – JUNE 2

Pam Penner's Residence on West Old Cheney Road

Including a demonstration of her husband's ultra light plane

Details in May and June *Chiff Chat*_

Friesen Organ Recital

John Friesen will be performing his favorite pieces on Friday, April 4 at 12:10 p.m. The concert will last until 12:50 p.m. and will be in the sanctuary of St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M Street, Lincoln. The concert is free and open to the public. A light luncheon will also be available for \$4._

Historian/Archives

Sinda Dux and Marcia Worcester wish to thank all who responded to their plea for missing yearbooks, minutes, etc. for the AGO archives. They have since filled in many gaps in the archive collection. They are still missing scrapbook items following 1979, such as programs or articles about AGO members. Contact Sinda (402.742.5032) or Marcia (402.486.0428)._

Correct Your AGO Yearbook

Address change: Sinda Dux; 2301 Southwest 18th Street, Lincoln, 68522-1923_

FUNERALS

Continued from Page 1

rehearsing (for how many hours?), certification, degrees, and years of experience. How much time and money have we expended to get where we are? And we still have to practice and many of us continue to study. We still have to put in hours of preparation to insure that our organ playing is up to par.

Doesn't this deserve something more than token remuneration? In spite of all the time, effort, expense and hard work we have put forth (and continue to do so) to be a good musician, there is an attitude by many non-musicians that what we do is really not 'work.' So why should we derive a livable income from what we do? ("When are you going to get a real job?") This is one of the difficulties concerning lack of proper salaries and fees for our work (in spite of everyone's expectation that we be on hand to provide music!). This attitude is compounded when musicians hesitate in demanding fees/salaries that are commensurable to their expertise. How can we educate the public on this matter if we take a meek or passive role and simply accept whatever 'they' will give us?

An idea occurred to me that might be helpful in putting a clearer perspective on this matter. It would take some challenging research. Find out what the fees, actual costs, profits, time expended for a funeral (also include flowers, grave marker, lot, since these are expenses too). Then see how these items line up with our fees. Anyone want to volunteer for this project?

I realize there are many layers in the matter of fees and salaries and this is an ongoing issue. Hopefully I have clarified some of the recent confusion. If you have questions or comments, please talk to board members. We are here for you and appreciate your input!_

Position Available

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 8320 South Street, Lincoln, is seeking applicants for a part-time organist/keyboardist beginning June 1. The responsibilities include two services each Sunday morning, two choir rehearsals on Wednesday evening (during the school year) and accompanying soloists or groups at Sunday

worship. A congregation of 290 members with a blended style of traditional and contemporary music. Contact Pastor, Dr. Carol Roettmer Brewer, at the church office: 402.489.1510 or aldersgatelincoln@juno.com_

Lincoln Music Teachers Host Fun Fair

by Jo Riecker-Karl

The Lincoln Music Teachers Association (LMTA) hosted a music fun fair for students grades 1 through 5 on Saturday, February 22nd at Grace Lutheran Church with about 125 students visiting centers created and operated by 22 LMTA teachers, assisted by parents and older music students.

Individual centers included rhythm games with Orff instruments, rhythm with pop cans, chance music, music history bingo, other music bingo games, mystery composers, stories of great composers, face painting with musical symbols, spinnerama, paper puzzles, concentration games, playing a piece for positive comments, and more. There were two sites where students could check out a pipe organ. Gene Bedient, the builder of the Chapel pipe organ, explained how it functioned and operated the stops as students played. Sara Schott, organist for Grace Lutheran Church, demonstrated the powerful pipe organ in the sanctuary and



Gene Bedient occasionally allowed students to assist her. To cap off the day, Doug McCallum performed magic tricks before spellbound onlookers and names were drawn by emcee, Nancy Schoen, for the more than 40 door prizes donated by local businesses or individuals. All participating students received a special prize provided by LMTA and took home good memories of a fun morning.

Door prize donors included Airport Inn, Amigos/A&W, Dietze Music House, Marian Eschliman, Folsom City Zoo, Garden Café, Godfather's Pizza, Keyboard Kastle, Newburn Chiropractic, Radio Shack, Sandhills Publishing, Security Federal, Super Saver North 27th, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (Patty Stradley), West Gate Bank and Woods Bros. Realty (Nanci Burchess-Smith).

This year's fun fair, co-chaired by Susan Moore and Marcia Wiebers, was designed to provide a fun and social atmosphere to reinforce musical knowledge, an added dimension to the private studio. LMTA sponsors one major event each year for children in addition to continuing education for its members. The next major event will be a monster concert, the "Extravaganza" which will be held at Pershing Auditorium in January of 2004._



Sara Schott

**SALARY GUIDELINES FOR LINCOLN-AREA CHURCH MUSICIANS
– 2003 –**

Annual Base Salary Range

Position Size	1/6	1/4	3/8	1/2	3/4	Full Time
Hours per week	6-8	9-12	13-18	19-24	25-34	35 and up
Service Playing Certificate	4,309-5,952	5,854-8,934	8,776-11,857	11,856-16,415	16,944-24,150	23,712-31,039
Bachelor's or ChM or CAGO	5,075-7,524	7,388-11,284	11,089-14,739	14,473-20,694	20,328-29,323	28,800-36,065
Master's or AAGO Certificate	6,001-8,619	8,473-12,537	12,318-16,931	16,627-23,650	23,236-32,926	32,342-41,385
Doctorate or FAGO Certificate	6,779-10,030	12,207-13,792	13,548-18,807	18,478-25,864	25,401-36,055	35,420-47,045

This table relates salary to the levels of training and to the average number of hours the musician must spend to do his/her work successfully; this includes time spent in planning, administration, rehearsals, and recruiting. The figures are based on positions in Lincoln area churches.

The Board of Directors has recommended the above salary guidelines. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a board member. Everyone will have an opportunity to vote on this proposal at our next regular meeting, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church._

Hastings College Choir

The Hastings College Choir will be singing morning services (8:30 and 11:00 a.m.) at First Presbyterian Church, 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln, Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday. Anyone interested in hearing the choir is welcome to attend._

Organ Recital

Chad Winterfeldt, a doctoral candidate in organ performance at UNL, will present his final doctoral recital at St. Paul United Methodist Church (1144 M Street, Lincoln) on Tuesday, April 29, at 7:00 pm. On the program are works by Messiaen, Reger, Albright, Bolcom, and Widor._

St. Cecilia Cathedral Organ on Internet

For pictures of the current installation of the Pasi Op. 14 organ at St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, go to the following address:
<http://pasiorgans.com/opus14ph.html>_

Rocky Ridge Music Center

Founded in 1942 by pianist Beth Miller Harrod, the Center is located at the foot of Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park, nine miles south of Estes Park, Colorado.

- Young Artist Seminar (June 15-July 21) for ages 15-22, with a special emphasis on chamber music.
- "INTRO" Young Artist Seminar (June 15-July 4) for ages 15-16.
- Junior Student Seminar, ages 10-14

For further information, telephone 402.486.4363 in Lincoln, Nebraska for further information or to schedule an audition appointment._

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

April	4	12:10 p.m.	Organ Recital – John Friesen, Organist – St. Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln
		7:30 p.m.	Anne Middendorf Concordia University Senior Project – Heine Hall - Concordia University, Seward – Details were in the March issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> – NOTE: This has been rescheduled from the original March 23rd date.
	7	7:30 p.m.	ABENDMUSIK: LINCOLN – 30 th Anniversary Celebration – First-Plymouth Church – 20 th at D Street, Lincoln
	13	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Hastings College Choir – First Presbyterian Church – 840 South 17 th Street, Lincoln
	13	7:00 p.m.	<i>Music for Lent</i> – St. John Lutheran Church – 701 North 6 th Street, Beatrice – Details were in the March issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> .
	15		DEADLINE for May issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> — Editor: 910 University Towers; 128 North 13 th Street; Lincoln, NE 68508-1501; Fax: 402.474.3250; Phone: 402.435.6913; E-mail: mveak@lps.org
	28	7:30 p.m.	AGO Meeting – Hymnody – Rev. Donald Marsh, Presenter – Christ United Methodist Church – 4530 A Street, Lincoln
	29	7:00 p.m.	AGO Recital – Chad Winterfeldt – St. Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln
May	4	4:00 p.m.	LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE – Timothy Albrecht, Organist – Christ United Methodist Church – 4530 A Street, Lincoln – Details will be in the May issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> .
June	2	6:30 p.m.	AGO Spring Family Picnic – Pam Penner Residence – 5001 West Old Cheney Road

Organists Wanted for Members' Recital

Our program on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. will be at First Presbyterian Church. This will be a members' recital for organ and instruments, featuring the new Reuter organ installed this year. If you are interested in performing on this recital please contact Murray Foreman (477-6037, or murrayforeman@hotmail.com).

AGO Annual Fund

Have you contributed to the Annual Fund? Why should you? Have a look at the November issue of TAO (2002) and check out an entire page of benefits. Among those benefits are:

- \$2 million of chapter liability insurance for all chapter programs and events,
- ASCAP licensing for all chapter events,
- promotion of professional education through certification programs, and
- a comprehensive library of educational materials for organists and choir directors.



Chiff Chat Lincoln Chapter
American Guild of Organists
910 University Towers
128 North 13th Street
Lincoln NE 68508-1501

[This address box is upside down to satisfy mailing requirements.]