

From the Dean

by Charles Ore

So if it sort of looks like an _____ and sort of acts like an _____ and sort of sounds like an _____, is it really, sort of almost an _____?

In the past 30 days I have heard George Ritchie play The Art of Fugue [great performance, bravo, ovation, ovation] on the Bedient, at Cornerstone — perhaps the oldest sounding organ in North America. I have practiced regularly on a so-so 4-rank 1965 Aeolian-Skinner at Concordia University, played the dramatic 110-rank Schoenstein at First-Plymouth, played a recital [including Widor with stop pullers] on an austere 40-something rank all mechanical Casavant at Zion Lutheran in Kalamazoo, Michigan and repeated that program [much happier Widor] on a bold 60-something rank Schlicker at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. So are all of the afore mentioned _____ really of the same species or genre?

Just imagine adding to this brief list all of the instruments played by AGO members in Lincoln plus all of those in the State of Nebraska and beyond! So if it sort of looks like an _____ and sort of acts like an _____ and sort of sounds like an _____, is it really an organ? The answer to this question is ABSOLUTELY!

But no wonder the general public looks at us in a peculiar way when we proudly say, "I AM AN ORGANIST!" The organ is hard to define and literature for the instrument can seem to be a remote patchwork of creativity spanning over 400 years. But in spite of all this _____ talk, I can readily say that I've never played

one that didn't have some merit!

We who play the organ are a diverse group and we need to celebrate our diversity. Too often the AGO has become fragmented over style and elitist over next-to-nothing! If all this _____ talk has made you a bit depressed, try adding a little humor to brighten your life. GOOGLE "Mae West Quotes" and in the list provided, try substituting ORGAN for MEN in #'s 2,3,6,11 and 20. Granted, some of these could be considered a little risqué and PLEASE BE WARNED that parental guidance is advised.

DON'T FORGET . . .

- The pedagogy workshop by Wayne Leupold on March 25. Wayne will talk to us about his new approach for teaching organ to the next generation.
- You should also plan to attend the Guild potluck and Student Recital on March 28 to be played on the heroic Reuter at First Presbyterian.
- And, on May 8, don't forget about the Lincoln/Omaha AGO gathering on May 8 at the home of Robert Markworth in Omaha, where you will hear a fun whiz-bang Wurlitzer Theatre Organ played in a concert by a guest artist featuring traditional and popular music. We will travel by bus and eat a box lunch (see the reservation coupon on page 3 of this issue of *Chiff Chat*).

Spring is here! Come out of your [*new word of your choice*] and join in the fun, food, refreshments, renewal, education, and commiserating that is supported by your very own Lincoln Chapter of the AGO.

Charles



NO AGO MEETING IN APRIL

**We "shot our wad" with
TWO meetings in March!
And, there will be
TWO meetings in May!**

ORGAN RECITALS

Andrew Gades, an organ major at UNL, will play a Junior Recital on **Friday, April 7** at 4:30 p.m. at Cornerstone, 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln. He will play works of Böhm, Sweelinck, Couperin, Distler, and Bach.

Gerald Holbrook will perform an all-Bach recital on **Sunday, April 23** at 3:00 p.m. at Cornerstone UMHE Chapel, 640 North 16th, Street, Lincoln. This is his final recital in his studies toward the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at UNL. The recital is free and open to the public.

Vidas Pinkevicius will present an organ recital, the final event of the Zion Lutheran Church concert series, on **Sunday April 30**. The program will be at Zion Lutheran Church in Imperial, Nebraska at 3:00 p.m., MDT.



★ ★ ★



*A program of music
for the
king of instruments*
Sundays at 8:30 p.m.
KZUM 89.3 FM

★ ★ ★

From the Archives

by Sinda Dux, Historian

June 1948 minutes: It was moved that the Dean should be empowered to appoint Mrs. Florence Abel (or someone else of the Abels) to go as delegate to the AGO Convention in St. Louis. It was voted also that the chapter should pay the one dollar registration fee for our delegate.

The chapter netted \$350 from an October 1948 concert of the Robert Shaw Chorale.

Winds on the Prairie ORGAN FESTIVAL 2007
A convention of the American Guild of Organists, Region VI
Lincoln, Nebraska • June 18-21, 2007
www.agolincoln.org

Organ Festival 2007 Up-date

by John Friesen, Festival Coordinator

Here's a quick progress report for you. Under Sinda Dux's able direction, we met our deadline to *The American Organist* (before any other region!) for an advertisement that will appear, I believe, in the May issue of the *TAO*. Keep an eye open for that. This month Willa Foster Jones is guiding the program committee to finalize the choice of artists and workshop presenters. William Smith will be negotiating fees with each one, and then the program committee will issue contracts. As the contracts are signed and returned, we will announce to you the name of each participant, the subject of their workshop or the venue where the concert will be held.

Thanks to each of you for your enthusiastic support of our efforts to bring and entertain Region VI at this exciting festival and convention!

Blessings to you all.

John

Party

For your advanced planning . . .

There will be a reception/party upon the retirement of Dr. Quentin Faulkner, AAGO, and Dr. George Ritchie, for the many years they have served the Lincoln community. They have contributed much time and energy to the Lincoln Chapter AGO, both in chapter operations and on the board of directors of the LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE. Both Faulkner and Ritchie have taught many years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and have planned and organized the internationally-known NU Organ Conference.

You will want to reserve **May 13** (3:00-5:00 p.m.) for this event. There will be wine, waters, and desserts served at 536 Pier 2, Lincoln, near the Lincoln Saline Wetlands.

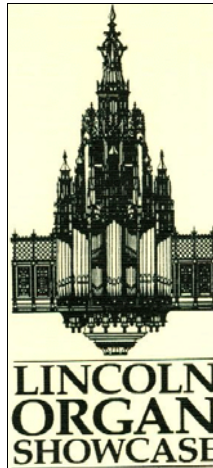
Put this date on your calendar.



... to three hard-working committees in the Lincoln Chapter AGO. Thank you for all of your work for The Guild.

“WINDS ON THE PRAIRIE” STEERING COMMITTEE

- Coordinator ... Dr. John C. Friesen
Secretary-Treasurer/Registrar ... Pam Penner, CAGO
Finance ... Ann Finkner, Bill Smith
Programs ... Willa Foster Jones, David Held
Programs/Program Book ... James Lytton, ChM
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AGO/Quimby Regional Competition ... John Hawn
Publicity ... Sinda Dux
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... Willa Foster Jones
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... Masako Nakamura Bacon



PLAN AHEAD MAY AGO MEETING Monday, May 8

Joint Lincoln /Omaha Chapter AGO meeting at the Markworth Residence, Omaha, for a theatre organ concert. Sign-up below — NOW.

— PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL —

_____ wishes to reserve _____ seat(s) @\$20.00 each, TOTAL \$ _____, on the bus to the Markworth Residence in Omaha on May 8. The \$20.00 package includes: bus transportation Lincoln/Omaha, return; box lunch; concert in Omaha. No bus tickets will be issued — the treasurer will have your name(s) on a list as you board the bus. Departure time and location will be announced in the next issue of Chiff Chat. Make your check payable to Lincoln Chapter AGO and mail to:

Pamela Penner, CAGO, Treasurer
5001 West Old Cheney Road
Lincoln NE 68523

DEADLINE MAY 1



— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

MARCH	25	9:30 a.m.	AGO MEETING — Wayne Leupold Workshop — First Presbyterian Church — 17th at F Street, Lincoln
	28	6:15 p.m.	AGO MEETING — Potluck Dinner/Student Recital — First Presbyterian Church — 17th at F Street, Lincoln — [13 students are performing!]
APRIL	7	12:10 p.m.	First Friday Noon Concerts — Gene Bedient, Organist — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1144 M Street, Lincoln
	7	4:30 p.m.	Organ Recital — Andrew Gades — Cornerstone UMHE Chapel — 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln
	10	7:30 pm.	AGO Board Meeting — First-Plymouth Church — 20th at D Street
	15		DEADLINE for May issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> — Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2 Lincoln, NE 68528; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com
	23	3:00 p.m.	Organ Recital — Gerald Holbrook — Cornerstone UMHE Chapel — 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln
	30	3:00 p.m. MDT	Organ Recital — Vidas Pinkevicius — Zion Lutheran Church — 1305 Broadway, Imperial
MAY	1		DEADLINE for reserving a space on the bus to the May AGO meeting in Omaha [see reservation coupon on page 3 of this newsletter]
	8	TBD	AGO MEETING — Markworth Residence in Omaha — Theatre Organ Concert — Sign-up for bus transportation now — Reserve your space
	13	3:00 p.m.	Reception for Dr. Quentin Faulkner, AAGO, and Dr. George Ritchie upon their retirement from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — Details in the next issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> — 536 Pier 2, Lincoln

Bedient to Perform at First Friday Concert

Gene Bedient, owner and President of Bedient Pipe Organ Company, will present an organ recital at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M Street, Lincoln, **Friday, April 7** at 12:10 p.m. Bedient will perform works by John Bull, J. S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, and Marcel Dupré on a pipe organ his company built. This concert is free and open to the public.

Bedient founded the Bedient Pipe Organ Company in Lincoln in 1969. He has always had a keen interest in music and traditional craftsmanship. He has made many trips to Europe to study old pipe organs and as a result has been commissioned to build many special instruments in America.

Bedient shares his knowledge by teaching a course on organ design and construction at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He received the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in 1994 from the UNL College of Fine and Performing Arts and the Helen Haggie Artistic Achievement Award at the 1998 City of Lincoln Mayor’s Arts Awards.



Gene Bedient

Lincoln Chapter AGO
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461

