



Chiff Chat

The Newsletter of the Lincoln, Nebraska Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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JANUARY, 2006

From the Dean

by Charles Ore, Dean

From the Console: It seems that almost every bride insists that "her" wedding ceremony contain at least one "unique" feature. In the ceremony that I have been describing to you in recent issues of *Chiff Chat*, the bride moved down the center aisle and stood on a rotating dais while holding a small dog near the high altar where her resplendent dress, accessories, and pet could be viewed by everyone in attendance. Later I learned that during the first part of the procession the father of the bride dislocated his hip while entering to the convulsive asymmetry of the rhythms used in my organ arrangement of Stravinsky's "La Sacre du printemps." He was rushed to a local hospital. Meanwhile the bride's mother tried to put the assembly at ease by passing the word that my arrangement of Stravinsky's "Spring" was depicting a violent storm in Nebraska. While all this was happening, the music shifted from "Spring" to Debussy's "Prelude a l'Apres-midi d'un faune." This is when the truly "unique" took another bizarre turn. Consider this: the side aisles were filled by the remainder of the wedding party presenting a very complicated choreography developed by the Maid of Honor — it resembled the opening of the International Olympics complete with large banners, flowing fabrics, wafting ripe banana and grape incense, a huge chorus droning "oohhhh," and a multitude of dancers that (according to the Mother of the Bride) were definitely "Fawns." My piece that combined

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NO FEBRUARY AGO MEETING

There will be no AGO meeting during the month of February. The student recital was originally scheduled for February, but had to be moved to March.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

March 25, Saturday — "How to get the next generation on the organ bench" — Wayne Leupold, presenter. This will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with people bringing their "brown bag lunch."

March 28, Tuesday — Great music! Fresh, young faces! Delicious food! A beautiful organ! All this for free at the Potluck Supper and Student Recital Tuesday, March 28 at First Presbyterian Church, 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln. The Lincoln chapter board thinks the college students would enjoy some home-cooked food, so bring your food offering to the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Then at 7:30 p.m. the students will show us their talent and skill on the organ.



Organ Festival 2007 Update

Christmas is past and I hope you have had a chance to relax a bit and be refreshed. The festival steering committee met on January 6th to continue work on the 2007 convention. I am happy to report that we now, officially, have chosen the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel as our convention headquarters. It's a great feeling to, at last, have a home where we can carry out an excellent convention and festival. William (Bill) Smith negotiated with the hotel for exhibits and workshop space and room rates (\$99 — a good deal by all accounts!). We are grateful to Bill for his expert handling of the process. We are also grateful to James Thomashower, National AGO Executive Director, for his perusal of the hotel contract and

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"Spring" and "Fawn" wasn't long enough — so in desperation, I decided to incorporate ideas made famous by Phillip Glass [he frequently engaged minimalist ideas that allow for a lot of repetition]. By stating each measure four times in rapid succession, I was able to have enough music to cover the length of the twenty-five minute prenuptial presentation.

If only the AGO could be this imaginative in recruiting new members. Think about it, the national AGO initiative titled "Each one reach one" offers a prize to the chapter that shows the most growth during the year! By multiplying our roster by four, Lincoln would "swell the ranks," have a chance to win the \$1,000 prize, and gain national attention. We would also have lots of new members! Just imagine the stories we might share [such as the wedding fantasy that has been serialized in recent AGO newsletters] and the social interaction with fellow organists and choir directors in the Lincoln area.

Be sure to read the upcoming calendar of events as found in Chiff-Chat. Great music and artists abound in and around the capital city on a regular ongoing basis.

In case you missed the 75th anniversary celebration, I want you to know that those in attendance had a great time reminiscing at the banquet and singing at the hymn festival. We heard fine music presented by Omaha organist David Schack. It seemed that everyone enjoyed David's new choir anthem that was commissioned by the Lincoln AGO to commemorate the occasion. With God's grace and blazing local talent, we even managed to have a good balanced choir to sing the piece with only one afternoon rehearsal. Sinda Dux developed and distributed a most informative paper titled "A History of the Lincoln Nebraska Chapter — American Guild of Organists." Please thank Sinda, guild historian, for her efforts on our behalf. By reading Sinda's document, you will discover that our Lincoln Chapter sponsored recitals

and workshops by many of the legendary organists of the 20th-century. Prepare to be impressed! If you ask in a nice way, I suspect that members of the Board might even get you a copy.

THE FINALE: So much more happened at the wedding, but let me conclude this segment of "From the Console" by sharing one additional exchange involving the wedding couple and the pastor, that took place during the reading of the marriage vows. The pastor, somewhat flustered by everything that had transpired, said to the bride, "Put your fing on his ringer," to which she replied, "NOW?!" The mother of the bride fainted and was rushed to the local hospital. All messages can be sent to the parents of the bride, Buckley and Dosey Fawnsay, at 666 Deerfield Lane in Elk creek. Need more be said except practice-practice-practice!

I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Again, be sure to read the calendar of events — there are many activities of interest to the organ community in the next few weeks.

Organ Recitals

January 26 — Alain Truche will play his DMA organ recital on January 26th at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln. He will play works by Duruflé, Locklair, and Reubke.

February 2 - Heidi Smith will play a senior organ recital on February 2nd at 4:30 p.m. The recital will be held in Room 19, Westbrook Music Building, 11th at R Street, Lincoln.

February 19/21 — Dr. George Ritchie, Marguerite Scribante Professor of Organ at UNL, will give **two complete performances** of J. S. Bach's *Art of Fugue* at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 19th and at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21st, both at Cornerstone UMHE Chapel, 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln. They are part of the UNL School of Music faculty recital series.



The *Art of Fugue* is one of Western culture's supreme artistic achievements. The feature that most characterizes Western classical music is its emphasis on combining independent melodies. In his *Art of Fugue*, J. S. Bach brings that art of counterpoint to its highest level. In it he explores in depth the contrapuntal possibilities inherent in a single musical subject. Bach scholar Christoph Wolff writes, "By letting the substance of the musical subject be logically uncovered and systematically exhausted, by employing traditional and novel techniques of composition as well as old and new elements of style, Bach created an autonomous work of art that embodies the character and universality of his art."

"Jubilee" Concert

Come to a "Jubilee" concert at Southwood Lutheran Church, January 29th at 7:00 p.m., 5511 South 27th Street, Lincoln.

- Featuring the Southwood Senior Choir sharing anthems they will sing at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, next May.
- Joining the choir will be the Sanctuary Band from St. John Lutheran Church, Beatrice
- Special guests, "No Better Cause."
- A free-will offering will go towards the Washington DC choir trip fund.
- Contact Denise Makinson for more information: 42.423.5511 or dmakinson@southwoodlutheran.org

Pipe Organs in Lincoln

My name is Jim Lytton, ChM. As announced in the last *Chiff Chat*, I am undertaking a new project — the creation a catalogue of the pipe organs in Lincoln.

I could use your assistance in two ways:

- If you have the specifications of the organ in your church (or any other organ), I would appreciate it if you could send it to me via e-mail, and,
- if you know of some organ that might not be ordinarily encountered in a project of this sort, I would appreciate knowing about that.

My e-mail address is jlytton@att.net and my telephone number is 402.421.0975.

Thanks for your assistance.

— NEW —

Omaha Chapter Web site

<http://www.agolincoln.org/chapters/omaha>



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

Welcome New Members

Please make the following additions in your AGO membership book:

Janice Harris	H 402.423.2801
2801 Sissel Road	W 402.472.0597
Lincoln NE 68516	C 402.476.3888
Friedens Lutheran Church	gh71530@navix.net

Vernon Groves
114 University Street
Hastings NE 68901

Retired from First Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Doug Cleveland, Organ

Sunday, February 5, 2006, 3:00 p.m.

**Nebraska Wesleyan University — O'Donnell Auditorium
50th Street at Huntington Avenue, Lincoln**

Douglas Cleveland is considered by critics and musicians across the country to be one of America's finest concert organists. He holds degrees from The Eastman School of Music, and Indiana University, where his teachers have included Russell Saunders, Larry Smith, and Marilyn Keiser. From 1999 to 2004, Mr Cleveland held the position of assistant professor of organ and church music at Northwestern University. Mr. Cleveland currently maintains a full recital calendar and is music director at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle. In 1993, Mr. Cleveland won first prize at the Fort Wayne Organ Competition, and in 1994 he followed this by winning the first prize at the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Dallas. Since winning these prestigious competitions, Mr. Cleveland has performed in 48 of the United States, as well as in Australia, England, Russia, Sweden, Germany, and France. In 1997, Mr. Cleveland was a visiting faculty member at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where he taught organ.



**Director of Music Ministry/
Organist**

American Lutheran Church, Lincoln, is seeking an organist to play for the 8:15 a.m. traditional worship service. Additionally, it is desired for this position to direct a choir and other special music groups, as opportunities arise. Salary is negotiable. If interested, please call the church office

at 402.466.6488, or send resume to 4200 Vine Street, Lincoln, NE 68503.

Congratulations, Jack Cole

Congratulations, Jack Cole, upon receiving a "Spirit of the Season" award for directing the Senior Chorus and having been the Nebraska Christian Men's Chorus for many years, although, now directed by John Hawn. Both Jack and John are members of the Lincoln Chapter AGO.

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

January	26	7:30 p.m.	Organ Recital — Alain Truche, Organist — First Presbyterian Church — 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln
	29	3:00 p.m.	St. Olaf Choir — Tickets: \$25, adults; \$10, students — Nebraska Wesleyan University — 50th Street at Huntington Avenue, Lincoln
	29	7:00 p.m.	"Jubilee" Concert — Southwood Lutheran Church — 5511 South 27th Street, Lincoln
	31		DEADLINE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION FOR AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION
February	2	4:30 p.m.	Organ Recital — Heidi Smith, Organist — Room 19, Westbrook Music Building — 11th at R Street, Lincoln
	3	12:10 p.m.	First Friday Noon Concerts — Dr. John Friesen, Organist — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1144 M Street, Lincoln
	5	3:00 p.m.	Lincoln Organ Showcase — Doug Cleaveland, Organist — Nebraska Wesleyan University — 50th Street at Huntington Avenue, Lincoln
	15		DEADLINE for March issue of Chiff Chat — Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2 Lincoln, NE 68528; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com
	19	3:00 p.m.	Organ Recital — J. S. Bach's <i>Art of Fugue</i> — Dr. George Ritchie, Organist — Cornerstone UMHE Chapel — 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln
	21	7:30 p.m.	Organ Recital — J. S. Bach's <i>Art of Fugue</i> — Dr. George Ritchie, Organist — Cornerstone UMHE Chapel — 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln


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further suggestions on how we could get better deals! Who doesn't love a good deal?

As your steering committee continues its work, we appreciate your encouragement and expressions of interest. We have much in Lincoln of which to be proud. Working together, we can enhance and invigorate the work and calling of all those who attend our festival. And we can be the instrument by which a new generation of organists and church musicians can flourish.

Blessings to you all.

Dr. John C. Friesen, Convention Coordinator

Lincoln Chapter AGO, Chiff Chat 536 Pier 2 Lincoln NE 68528-1461	
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