



Jim's Jottings

by Dean, James J. Lytton, ChM



DOLDRUMS

Here we are in the doldrums of winter. And yes, I know that February can be much

worse than January in Nebraska. But we have had some warming things. David Heller's recital and workshop were quite wonderful. His workshop was especially well-received, and then he topped that off with a fantastic recital.

Coming up: Chris Marks plays a recital at UNL on the 22nd. Jeff Blersch will be presenting a recital of music for organ and various instruments on January 25. And John Scott will be playing a recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church in February. Westminster has re-done its sanctuary and the acoustics have been quite-improved.

I hope that you will take part in some of the warming going on in the organ world in Lincoln. ✨



- FEBRUARY AGO MEETING - STUDENT RECITAL and VALENTINO'S! WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

Monday - February 23

Seward Valentino's at 5:30 PM

Concordia University Music Center at 7:00 PM

Mangia! Mangia! Then listen to some of our talented student organists performing on the new Casavant at Concordia University in Seward. We have a room reserved just for us at the Seward Valentino's wherein we can enjoy the buffet, socialize, and what-not prior to being bowled over by area organ students performing on Concordia's new instrument. Valentino's offers a senior discount. You can learn more about Concordia's new organ by going to our chapter Web site agolincoln.org/ and clicking on the article on the left-hand side of the home page.



Directions to Valentino's from Lincoln . . .

- Access I-80 at the entrance most convenient for you. Head west to Exit 395/Nebraska Rt. 15. Turn right/north, proceed 3.5 miles. Valentino's will be on your left, just past St. Gregory the Great, the Super 8, and opposite Wal-Mart. **N.B.** Enter Valentino's from the frontage road which parallels Rt. 15. There is no access from Rt. 15 directly in front of Valentino's. Keep your eyes peeled!

From Valentino's to Concordia . . .

- Turn left/north on Route 15/6th Street. Proceed 2.1 miles to the traffic light at Rt. 34/Main Street. Turn right/east (Seward County Court House on your left), continue through 3 traffic lights and continue until you get to Columbia Avenue. Turn left/north on Columbia (at the Lutheran Center, Missouri Synod brick building), pass Memorial Hospital (on your right) and continue on. The Concordia University campus will be several blocks further on your right. You'll come to a 4-way stop sign at Columbia and Hillcrest Street. John's Lutheran Church will be on your left and you'll have

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Winter

LIFE AFTER DEATH

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, of course sir," the new employee replied.

"Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you! "

Bulletin Blooper

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."



Eisenhower Dance Ensemble

February 22 - 3:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

840 South 17th Street, Lincoln

Arts for the Soul – Music & Fine Arts at First Presbyterian, presents a unique event. The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble is a professional contemporary dance company from Detroit, Michigan. Joining them will be local area dance students. Ticket information on-line at

www.firstpresbyterianlincoln.org

or by calling the church at 402.477.6037. ✨

From the Archives

by Sinda Dux, Historian

For a Capitol Beach picnic in **1930**, lunches were bought at Miller and Paine for 50 cents each.

The total cost of the **1931** Chapter Christmas party was \$1.05.

February **1932** Sigfrid Karg-Elert appeared at First-Plymouth Congregational Church and the Guild held a reception in his honor. [From Wikipedia: His performance skills were less admired than his composing skills and his single tour of the United States in the early **1930s** was not well-received. He succumbed to a long illness in **1933**.]

[Secretary's books missing from **1932** through **1939**]

In **1940** Rev. Gosnell of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church was asked to serve as Chapter Chaplain. He advised the organists to use "good church music, nothing flashy or secular."

The Guild voted to have the Guild meeting the first Monday evening of each month.

Meetings were held at the Beaumont Dining Room, the University School of Music, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mr. Donald Ketting's apartment, the Y.W.C.A., the Chamber of Commerce, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar A. Cole, Walt's Music Store, the home of Miss Henrietta Sanderson, Schmoller and Mueller Piano Store, and the South Chapel of the Lincoln Army Air Field.

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■ STUDENT RECITAL

(Continued from Page 1)

reached the north edge of the Concordia campus. Turn right/east on Hillcrest. The Music Center will be on the right, one block ahead.

Back to Lincoln from the Concordia University Music Center . . .

- Turn left/west on Hillcrest to the 4-way stop sign at Hillcrest and Columbia. Turn left on Columbia. Continue to Rt. 34/Main Street. Turn left on Rt. 34/Main St. and continue to Lincoln (21 miles to the junction of Rt. 34/I-80/I-180. N.B. As of this writing, there is no access to the eastbound ramp of I-80, owing to the 3-lane widening project.

Directly to Concordia without the Valentino's stop en-route . . .

- Take 10th Street/I-180 north, cross I-80, continue 21 miles west on Route 34 to Seward. Look for the East Hill Motel on your left and the Lutheran Center, Missouri Synod brick building on your right just as you enter Seward. Turn immediately right/north on Columbia. Continue past Memorial Hospital several blocks to the 4-way stop sign at the edge of the Concordia Campus at Hillcrest. Turn right on Hillcrest. The Music Center will be one block ahead on your right.

Or just use MapQuest! ✨

"NEBRASKA"

Ed. Note: Last month's *Chiff Chat* included "Nebraska," reprinted on page 4 of the newsletter. I was not aware where those words came from, so I attributed it to "anonymous." I was informed by AGO chapter member, Joseph Herl, that "Nebraska" is actually a song by the String Beans. (See www.thestringbeans.net). Thank you, Joe, for pointing that out to give credit to where credit is due. ✨

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As members of the AGO, you are eligible for a \$15 discount on single tickets to Lincoln Symphony Orchestra performances throughout the year.

Telephone the LSO office at 402.476.2211, or visit their Web site

www.lincolnsymphony.com ✨

March *Chiff Chat* Deadline

The March deadline for *Chiff Chat*, will be February 22, instead of the usual 20th of the month. Editor, Mike Veak, will be in MÜRREN Switzerland from February 4-22, returning late February 22. So, please have items to his e-mail inbox (or mailing address), at least, by the 22nd of February, as I plan to work on the March newsletter the 23rd of February – complete with jet lag – and have it to the printer later that day. ✨

Marks Faculty Recital at UNL

Christopher Marks, Organist

Thursday, January 22 - 7:30 PM

With Karen Becker, cello, and Kate Butler, voice
Works by Franck, Durufé, Saint-Saëns, Vierne, and more
Kimball Recital Hall; 11th at R Street, Lincoln
FREE admission ✨



Christopher Marks

Grand Island Organ Recital February 22 - 3:00 PM

J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO, from Imperial, Nebraska, who is a member of the Lincoln Chapter AGO, will present an organ recital at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Island. A reception will follow the recital.

There will be a free-will offering. The organ at Trinity is a landmark Holtkamp, designed and built by Walter Holtkamp, when the building was built in the early 1950s. The purpose of this recital is to begin a fund-raising campaign to restore the instrument.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 212 West 12th Street, Grand Island. ✨

Hastings Organ Series

February 15 - 5:00 PM

Brett Valliant, Organist

First Presbyterian Church

621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings ✨



Brett Valliant

First Friday Concert Series

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

1144 M Street, Lincoln



The First Friday Concert Series welcomes University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) student, Laura Ross, to the stage, Friday, **February 6 at 12:10 PM**. Ross is a senior at UNL studying

organ performance with Dr. Christopher Marks. She began her organ study as a freshman at Syracuse University in upstate New York, and she later transferred to Nebraska, when Dr. Marks was appointed to the faculty at UNL in 2006.

Her accomplishments include the 2007-2008 undergraduate concerto competition winner at UNL, giving her the opportunity to perform the *Toccata* from Joseph Jongen's *Symphonie Concertante* with the UNL Symphony Orchestra. She was also named an E. Power Biggs Fellow of the Organ Historical Society (OHS) in 2008. This award gave her an all-expenses paid trip to the OHS national convention in Seattle, where she got to observe many important instruments in that region.

Ross was recently married to fellow-organist, John Ross, AAGO, both serving on the board of the Lincoln Chapter AGO. Laura is currently the organist at Trinity United Methodist Church, Lincoln. ✨



LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

Friday, February 13 - 7:00 PM

John Scott, Organist

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln

John Scott was born in 1956 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, where he became a Cathedral chorister. While still at school he gained the diplomas of the Royal College of Organists and won the major prizes. In 1974 he became Organ Scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge, where for four years he acted as assistant to Dr. George Guest and held the University John Stewart of Rannoch Scholarship in Sacred Music. On leaving Cambridge, he was appointed Assistant Organist at London's two Anglican Cathedrals, St Paul's and Southwark. In 1985 he became Sub-Organist of St Paul's Cathedral and in 1990 he succeeded Dr. Christopher Dearnley as Organist and Director of Music, where he served for fourteen years before moving to New York in 2004. In New York he assumed the post as Organist and Director of Music at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York, in succession to Dr. Gerre Hancock, where he directs the renowned choir of men and boys.

John Scott will play works by: Mendelssohn, Handel, Bach, Mozart, Messiaen, Grainger, Wammes, and Mathias.

Tickets are available at the door for \$15 (\$10 for students or seniors). For more information, visit www.agolincoln.org, or call 402.421.0975. ✨



John Scott

ORGAN PLUS...

Music for Organ with Instruments and Voices

Jeffrey Blersch, Organist

Concordia University

[One block east of North Columbia Avenue & Hillcrest Street, Seward]

January 25 - 3:00 PM ✨

Mission Statement

Lincoln Chapter AGO

The Lincoln AGO board of directors recently adopted the following mission statement:

The purpose of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members in the city of Lincoln and surrounding areas.

- CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

JANUARY

- 22 7:30 PM **UNL FACULTY RECITAL** – Christopher Marks, Organist – Kimball Recital Hall – 11th at R Street, Lincoln
 25 3:00 PM **ORGAN PLUS** – Music for Organ with Instruments and Voices – Jeffrey Blersch, Organist – The Music Center, Concordia University – One block east of North Columbia Avenue & Hillcrest Street, Seward

FEBRUARY

- 6 12:10 PM **FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES** – Laura Ross, Organist – Saint Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln
 13 7:00 PM **LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE** – John Scott, Organist – Westminster Presbyterian Church – 2110 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln
 14 **♥ HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ♥**
 15 5:00 PM **HASTINGS ORGAN SERIES** – Brett Valliant, Organist – First Presbyterian Church – 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings
 22 3:00 PM **ORGAN RECITAL** – J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO, Organist – Trinity Lutheran Church – 212 West 12th Street, Grand Island
 3:00 PM **ARTS FOR THE SOUL** – The Eisenhower Dance Ensemble – First Presbyterian Church – 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln
DEADLINE for March issue of *Chiff Chat* – Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com
 23 5:30 PM **FEBRUARY AGO MEETING** – Supper at Seward Valentino's – Nebraska Rt. 15
 7:00 PM Student Recital at The Music Center, Concordia University – One block east of North Columbia Avenue & Hillcrest Street, Seward [See complete details in the article on page 1 for directions to Valentino's & The Music Center.]
 24 7:30 PM **THE PLYMOUTH BRASS** – A Mardi Gras Concert – First-Plymouth Congregational Church – 2000 D Street, Lincoln – Tickets: Call 402.421.2452



A program of music for the king of instruments – Sundays at 8:30 PM – KZUM 89.3 FM

■ ARCHIVES – (Continued from Page 2)

In May **1940** the Guild traveled to Concordia College in Seward to hear Professor Hasse play the new three-manual Reuter organ in the chapel.

In December **1940** the Guild voted to send a box of candy to the First-Plymouth Choir as thanks for the choir's work at the Guild's Musical Festival.

"A motion was made and seconded to send a letter to the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Retail Chairman asking him to change the night the business district remained open because it affected the choirs' attendance so much."

In November **1941** the Guild, along with the Lincoln Ministerial Association and the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce, sponsored Lincoln's first massive "hymn festival" with choirs of 24 churches totaling 450 singers from primary to adult age. Estimates of audience attendance ranged from 1,600 to 2,000 at St. Paul Methodist Church. The Guild voted to pay the Festival choir director, Oscar Bennett of Wesleyan University, \$15.00 and to buy the Festival organist, Paul LeBar, a nice gift for something less than \$5.00.



Lincoln Chapter AGO
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461