



Chiff Chat

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

Volume 78, Number 5

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January, 2008

JIM'S JOTTINGS

by James J. Lytton, ChM

Organ Recitals

It is always interesting to go to an organ recital — lots of interesting people there, and of course hearing some great music.

I went to a recital recently. I won't tell which one, as it does not really matter to this story, but a well-known player in our community. There was a good crowd, lots of folks there, mainly from the church members of the player.

But who wasn't there? Well, I counted perhaps five chapter members there. Five out of 82 (although that number includes several out-of-town members). That is just a little depressing. Here is someone who has prepared for a recital, practicing hours and hours (we all know how that goes!), and the colleagues of that person don't even support him.

We have all heard that the number of organists is diminishing. That is a fact. So, we organists should be doing something about that; and, supporting our colleagues in their recital endeavors should be an easy way to help.

We are having trouble getting members to attend chapter meetings. Having been associated with a number of chapters in my time, I can tell you that the programming this year is diverse and provides a lot of interesting events. Not every meeting is an organ recital, as well it should not be. Jim Hejduk provided a wonderful choral workshop in October. In November we had a recital by our members. Outside of the players at that meeting, there weren't a lot of other folks in attendance.

Lincoln has been selected as the site for the first-ever Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced, which will take place in July of 2008. Like the convention last June, we will be looking for volunteers to assist with

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Jim Lytton

AGOMMEETING*SHOWCASE

JANUARY AGO MEETING

Hymn/Service Playing Workshop

Martin Jean, Presenter

January 12 — 10:00 AM

First Presbyterian Church

840 South 17th Street, Lincoln

10:00 AM — Bagels 'n Coffee

Great Hall

10:30 AM — Workshop

Church sanctuary



Martin Jean

LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE



LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

Sunday, January 13 — 3:00 PM

Martin Jean, Organist

First Presbyterian Church

840 South 17th Street, Lincoln

Martin Jean is Associate Professor of Organ at the Yale School of Music and Director of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, a position equivalent to Dean of a Yale college. Prior to assuming his position at Yale, he served as Associate Professor of Music and University Organist at Valparaiso University in Indiana and as Associate Professor of Music at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan where he studied with Robert Glasgow and was also a holder of the Regents' Fellowship. Additional coaching has been with David Craighead and Russell Saunders. Dr. Jean has commercial recordings on the Raven and Gothic labels.

In 1986 Martin Jean was awarded first prize at the international Grand Prix de Chartres competition, held bi-annually at the Chartres Cathedral, France.

He was a featured performer at the 2004 national convention of the American Guild of Organists held in Los Angeles and the 2006 convention in Chicago. *

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the POE Advanced. Organ teachers and students from all over the country will be here to learn from those organ teachers. The list of the faculty is available on our chapter's Web site.

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

Click on the POEA brochure. There will be several recitals, master classes, workshops and two recitals by the student recitalists at the end of the event.

We members of the Lincoln chapter need to be more involved with the chapter activities. In January, we will have a recital by a wonderful recitalist, Martin Jean, as part of the Lincoln Organ Showcase. He will be doing a workshop for us on Saturday, January 12. It will be embarrassing when six members show up for the workshop.

If you have ideas about how we can change this (attendance) situation, I am all ears. Call, write, or send a (anonymous) note, I don't care. We need to work on getting ourselves to recitals and programs to support our colleagues, and to support the organ in Lincoln. Next year is the International Year of the Organ and we will have a special series of programs to support that effort. Stay tuned for some exciting details.

If the number of organists is diminishing, and we are not supporting the organ and organists in Lincoln, the decline will continue. We really need to address this issue. I hope we members of the Lincoln chapter will assist in being good supporters of the organ in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I hope to see you at the Martin Jean workshop and then the organ recital! *

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY . . .

FACULTY ORGAN RECITAL

Christopher Marks will present his UNL faculty organ recital on February 5 at Kimball Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Details of the recital in next month's *Chiff Chat*.

LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

Richard Elliott, organist at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, will be featured February 8, at First-Plymouth Church. Details of the recital in next month's *Chiff Chat*. *



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Do you know a church organist who is not a member of our chapter? If you do not know if they are a member, please check in your membership directory that you received recently.

It lists all current members. Do you know someone who is a music enthusiast and would like to get involved in an exciting venture with other music enthusiasts? Do you know someone who was a member of the Lincoln AGO at one time, but who is not currently listed in our membership directory? Good!

Now, here is the challenge. We would like to increase our chapter membership to at least 100 members in the coming year. Only YOU can help us. Please encourage someone to join. The national office has had a membership campaign for the last few years, entitled **Each One Reach One**. Please go to their Web site for more details – that address is <http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/index.html>. Let's do our part as a chapter to reach that goal. The prizes are GREAT! Too bad I'm not eligible to participate, being the membership chair and the treasurer, but you are not eliminated – so what is stopping you!! Let's do our part in the campaign, and bring national recognition to our chapter, also.

Questions? Please contact me and I will try to answer them.

Pam Penner, CAGO
5001 West Old Cheney Road
Lincoln, NE 68523
402.797.2100
pampenner@hotmail.com *



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

You can still sign up to receive your *Chiff Chat* electronically. It is as easy as one, two, three:

- 1: E-mail Mike Veak (mveak@neb.rr.com) to be placed on the list.
- 2: The day the newsletter is taken to the printer, you will have your copy in your e-mail inbox; sooner than receiving it in your mail box.
- 3: We will link you to our chapter Web site to retrieve your copy of the newsletter . . . thus NO large attachment to open – it downloads very quickly from the Web site. You can read it on-line or print it off for your reading pleasure, later. And, you can peruse our chapter Web site while you are there. *



PHOTOS

Visit our chapter Web site and view the photos of the installation of officers at last September's monthly AGO meeting . . .

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jilytton/InstallationOfLincolnAGOOfficers>
and you can also view photos of the region VI convention held in Lincoln last June . . .

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jilytton/AGOREGIONVIConvention> *

First Friday Concert Series

Saint Paul United
Methodist Church

1144 M Street, Lincoln – January 4, 12:10 PM

The fourth concert of the 2007-2008 *First Friday Concert* series will feature Ann Chang-Barnes on the piano and the fortepiano,

Dr. Chang-Barnes will use an early Mozart keyboard instrument, a replica of ca. 1780 Anton Walter fortepiano. She participated in the International Fortepiano Forum in Belgium in the summer of 2006 and is performing numerous fortepiano concerts as soloist and with orchestra this season. Ann will release a solo CD featuring the Walter fortepiano in performances of Sonatas and Fantasies by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are welcomed. A light lunch consisting of soup, sandwich, dessert and beverage will be available for \$5 between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Lunch will be served in Paine Parlor, adjacent to the Sanctuary. *

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER ADVANCED



On page 81 of the January issue of *The American Organist* magazine, there is an article about Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced (POEA).

The first of it's kind will be held right here in Lincoln, July 6-11, 2008, on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with excellent faculty under the direction of Dr. Christopher Marks. Stay tuned. *



LINCOLN
NEBRASKA
JULY 6 - 11, 2008

POEA

MYRON J. ROBERTS RETROSPECTIVE

Sunday, May 18, 2008 – 3:00 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
6001 A Street, Lincoln

We are still looking for people (particularly Myron's students) willing to perform:

- solo organ
- choral director
- accompanist
- sing in the choir

Contact Dick Morris to indicate your interest. Also tell Dick of any students you know who studied with Myron.

402.261.3104

crichardmo@yahoo.com *

CHAPTER OPERATING PROCEDURES



Our AGO chapter operating procedures will be voted on at the February AGO meeting, following the potluck supper. Attendance at this meeting is very important in order to have a 'quorum' vote for the chapter operating procedures. Plan now to attend. *

CONGRATULATIONS, SCHOTT'S

Congratulations to Sara Schott and her husband for the new arrival in their family — a baby girl — on November 15. *



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN

The task force is busily working on celebrating the "International Year of the Organ" along with other AGO chapters throughout the country July 2008 through June 2009. The Lincoln Chapter AGO task force is chaired by Pam Penner (CAGO) with members: Gene Bedient, Dr. John Friesen, Jim Hejduk, Jim Lytton (ChM), Joy Maag, Laura Trotta, and Mike Veak.

An "ORGAN SPECTACULAR" recital will be held here in Lincoln on October 19th along with other chapters throughout the country to help celebrate the year-long event. *

Winter

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

DECEMBER

31 8:00 PM THE PLYMOUTH BRASS presents a “30th Anniversary Blast with Jack Levick” – First-Plymouth Church – 2000 D Street, Lincoln



JANUARY

4 12:10 PM FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES – Ann Chang-Barnes, piano and fortepiano – Saint Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln

7 7:00 PM AGO BOARD MEETING – First Lutheran Church – 1551 South 70th Street, Lincoln

12 10:00 AM JANUARY AGO MEETING – Hymn/Service Playing Workshop – Martin Jean, Presenter – First Presbyterian Church – 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln

13 3:00 PM LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE – Martin Jean, Organist – First Presbyterian Church – 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln

20 DEADLINE for February issue of Chiff Chat – Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com

A program of music for the king of instruments



Sundays at 8:30 PM KZUM 89.3 FM

JACK IS BACK !

... as in Levick, that is. Former Lincoln Chapter AGO member (now living in Florida), Jack Levick, is coming to town.



30th Anniversary Blast with Jack Levick

New Years’ Eve – 8:00 PM – First-Plymouth Church – 2000 D Street

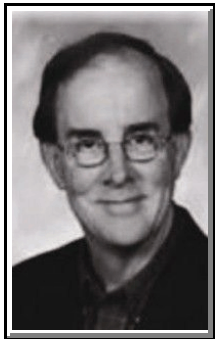
Familiar faces from present and past; Great new and old music for the ultimate blast!

Tickets: \$22 Adult – \$28 Balcony – \$17 Senior Citizen – \$7 Youth

Dessert Tickets \$7 – [Intermission by Paula’s Patisserie]

Dessert bar includes complimentary beverage

Contact Tom Kelly at 402.421.2452 or tk34333@alltel.net for tickets



Jack Levick

Lincoln Chapter AGO
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461

