



Jim's Jottings

by Dean, James J. Lytton, ChM

GROWING THE GUILD



Jim Lytton

Growing the Guild is a large priority with the national office (as well it should be). I often think that our executive director, James Thomashower, believes that we all should have multi-colored hair and multiple body piercings to attract the younger set.

But if we want to grow the guild, we should look to John Friesen. John decided that Michael Bennett, who works in the office at Saint Paul Church, should be a member of the AGO – and he is one of our new members this year! Michael has attended most, if not all, of our programs this fall, and is a very enthusiastic member. If everyone did what John Friesen did, we would be growing.

How did you get started with the AGO? My first introduction was in high school. I grew up in a large Presbyterian church in the Kansas City area. The organist there was really a pianist and a self-taught organist, playing a "wonderful" Baldwin. She was really quite good (and there is a wonderful success story there, which I will relate in a moment). But she told me that you had to take (and pass) exams in order to join the AGO and she was not doing that.

Skip forward several years (I did the Army between high school and college) and I found myself at Westminster Choir College where Alec Wyton was head of the organ department AND national president of the AGO. We all were members of the student chapter (probably one of the largest in the country) and Alec often spoke of guild matters. I have my ChM because of Alec; he encouraged us all to do the ChM because of our experiences at Westminster. And Alec encouraged each of us to be active members in the AGO.

I have been involved with the guild ever since, and have served on boards, committees, etc. as well as dean of several chapters. I do believe in the guild and I believe that it has some benefits for most of us, one of the most important is the collegiality.

And how does the Lincoln chapter shape up this year? We currently have 81 members. We have

(Turn to JOTTINGS, Page 2)



JANUARY AGO MEETING & RECITAL JANUARY CHAPTER EVENTS WITH DAVID HELLER, ORGANIST

Church of the Holy Trinity, Episcopal
6001 A Street, Lincoln

January 10

9:30 AM "Eye Opener" Coffee and Pastries

10:00 AM – Workshop: "Communication, Sensitivity, and Conviction: The Organist and Hymn Playing"

January 11 – 3:00 PM – Organ Recital

Works by Bach, Buxtehude, Phillips, Noble, Lefebure-Wely, Widor, Vierne, and Myron Roberts

(Reception to follow)

AGO members free / Adults \$15 / Seniors and Students \$10

A year after Dr. Martin Jean's visit to Lincoln, we welcome Dr. David Heller of San Antonio, Texas for another topical workshop and recital. This one will focus on many of the issues and challenges organists face in leading congregational singing and how to overcome some of the obstacles we face on the bench each week.

Heller's recital will once again bring us music by our sainted Myron Roberts at the church Myron so faithfully served. A member of the faculty of Trinity University in San Antonio since 1986, Heller studied at Lawrence University under the famed pedagogue Miriam Clapp Duncan and continued on to the Eastman School of Music where he earned his master's, doctorate, and the prestigious Performer's Certificate studying with both Russell Saunders and David Craighead. In addition, Heller studied harpsichord with Colin Tilney and Lisa Crawford and has undertaken post-doctoral work in improvisation with fellow Texan, Gerre Hancock.

David Heller has appeared around the globe as both performer and presenter at national and regional conferences of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the OHS, the AIO, The Hymn Society, and the AGO.

GIA has published his acclaimed *Manual on Hymn Playing* and he is

(Turn to HELLER, Page 2)



David Heller

■ JOTTINGS

Continued from Page 1

several new members, but unfortunately, for every new member that we gained, we have lost a member. The reasons for the losses are not unhappiness – at least, I do not think so. Moving and growing older seem to be the main reasons. Among our new members, we have Paul Soulek who is a recent Concordia graduate and the new director of music at Saint John Lutheran Church in Seward; Ryan Luckey from First-Plymouth Church; Arline Henni who is a dual member with Omaha. And then there is Michael Bennett (mentioned above) and Robert Craig from St. Mark's Methodist. We also have two freshmen high school students (Cole Sartore and Nolan Pribnow) at the cathedral, who sing in the choir and have started studying organ. I gave them memberships for the year (student memberships are relatively inexpensive) in the theory that they will continue their membership in the guild. The chapter is not finished yet. We have also gained some new members in the years previous, so we are adding new members all of the time. But they are balanced out by the ones that we lose.

So what about the organist playing the Baldwin? Quite a nice success story. She eventually started studying the organ, she passed her CAGO, she became dean of the Kansas City chapter AND she convinced her church to put in a 90-rank Moeller pipe organ! There was a Seville between the Baldwin and the Moeller. Were that all of our efforts are as successful!

What can **YOU** do to help grow the guild? Invite someone to attend David Heller's hymn workshop on January 10. If they like the workshop, perhaps they will then be interested in membership. In Lincoln, for every member we have working in a church, there is another person working in a church who is NOT a member. There is a large field out there – we just have to go and reap the harvest. *

First Friday
Concert Series

January 9 – 12:10 PM – 2nd Friday
David Schack, Organist
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M Street, Lincoln

David Schack attended Valparaiso University, studying organ with Philip Gehring and composition with Richard Wienhorst. He received his Master of Music degree from Indiana University and did additional work at the University of Illinois. For seven years, Schack served on the faculty of Concordia College (now Concordia University) in Seward, Nebraska, where he taught organ, piano,



David Schack

and other music courses. After moving to Omaha, he became organist and choir director at First Lutheran Church, where he still serves today. *

■ HELLER

Continued from Page 1

currently collaborating with organ builder John Ballard on a book documenting the history of the pipe organ in San Antonio.

Heller's discography include two recordings on the Calcante label and two more recent recordings for Pro Organo, one featuring the famed Rosales organ at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon where he serves as Visiting Artist-in-Residence (a post once held by Catharine Crozier). In addition to his duties as Professor of Music and University Organist at Trinity, Heller serves as Artist-in-Residence for North Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

To learn more about Dr. Heller's recordings and reviews of his playing, go to our Lincoln chapter website (www.agolincoln.org) and click on the International Year of the Organ logo, then click "Chapter Programs" where you can also access the specifications of Holy Trinity's Reuter organ. Tell and invite your friends to this timely and useful workshop and exciting recital. Both will be great ways to take our minds off winter! *

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, Duruflé, Saint-Saëns, Vierne, and more
Kimball Recital Hall; 11th at R Street, Lincoln
FREE admission *



Christopher Marks

Marks On National Committee

Christopher Marks has recently been appointed to the AGO Committee on the New Organist (CONO), which oversees all Pipe Organ Encounter programs, as well as other initiatives aimed at encouraging development of new organists. For more information on CONO, visit:

<http://www.agohq.org/education>

The AGO is dedicated to ensuring another generation of musicians and enthusiasts of organ and choral music. The Guild has programs, both on the local and national levels, that span every age group and level of proficiency.

Other members on the committee are: Denise Lanning, MM, FAGO, DIRECTOR, Denver, Colorado; Jeffrey M. Alban, DMA, SPC, CAGO, Front Royal, Virginia; Joanne Norman Schulte, MM, Coral Gables, Florida. *

Membership
Directory

Changes

Two AGO members have changed e-mail addresses. Please make these changes in your membership directory:

John Carter Cole
Sara Schott

jackandshirleycole@gmail.com
sschott55@windstream.net *

From the Archives

by **Sinda Dux, Historian**

On Saturday, **April 13, 1929** the following persons assembled for luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce at Lincoln, Nebraska:

Vernon Bennett, Dean of the Organist's Guild at Omaha; Miss Alice M. Sexton, 2nd Presbyterian; Mrs. H. Leon Porter, Trinity M. E.; O. H. Lunderman, Trinity Lutheran; Miss Naomi Alfred, First-Plymouth; Miss Cornelia Gant, 1st Baptist; Miss Mary Kimball, 2nd Baptist; Sterling Marshall, Holy Trinity; Ralph Stone, East Lincoln Christian; Harlan Smedley, Christian 1st; Mrs. May Belle Haymon Jackson, Christian Lincoln; Mrs. Chas. W. Fleming, Grace M. C.; Mrs. Edith B. Ross, 1st Presbyterian; Miss Margaret MacGregor, Vine Cong.; Mrs. A.G. Chapman. Persons could join the chapter on recommendation of two members of the Guild, the payment of the initiation fee of \$2.00 and the yearly dues of \$3.00.

The officers for the Lincoln Branch Chapter were then chosen: Mrs. Edith Ross, Regent; Mrs. Chas. W. Fleming, Secretary; Mrs. O. H. Lunderman, Treasurer; Miss Cornelia Gant, Publicity.

Meetings were held on Saturdays with luncheons, a business meeting, and a program of music or a speaker. Roll call was taken and a chart of attendance and absences was kept in the Secretary's book.

Subsequent meetings were held at the Commercial Club, the basement of the University School of Music, the Lincoln Hotel, Mr. Rosborough's home, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Fleming, the University Club, and the Temple cafeteria. *

Student Competition

The Lincoln AGO chapter is sponsoring a student competition, part of the Regional Competition for Young Organists, sponsored by the national AGO. The competition will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2009 and will be held at Church of the Holy Trinity, Episcopal – 6001 A Street, Lincoln.

Competition requirements and applications are available online at www.agolincoln.org and the deadline is January 17, 2009. For further information, contact Dan Ahlin at 402.261.5765 or dahlin@neb.rr.com.

The winner of the competition will go on to Wichita, Kansas to compete at the Region VI convention in June, 2009. *

AGO an LSO Corporate Sponsor

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 *

University of Kansas Sponsors North German Organ Study Tour

From July 28 – August 10, 2009, the University of Kansas will sponsor KU European Organ Study Tour IV: North Germany, under the direction of professor Michael Bauer. This tour will include a significant number of the major Schnitger organs, as well as renaissance instruments, important 17th century organs by Scherer and Stellwagen, Romantic organs by Ladegast and Sauer, and contemporary instruments by Ahrend and Metzler. We will also tour the Ahrend shop and have free time in Hamburg and Lübeck. For further information see www2.ku.edu/~organ, write mbauer@ku.edu, or call 785.864.9744. *

National Headquarters Web Site Additions

★ AGO Launches New Web Page

NEW YORK CITY – The national headquarters has launched a new Web page identifying all institutions of higher education in the U.S., Canada, and abroad offering instruction and degree programs in organ, choral conducting, and sacred music. The directory can be found on-line at

www.agohq.org/education/schools.html



★ Restricted Access to On-line Job Postings

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists is pleased to announce an exclusive benefit of AGO membership. Effective Monday, December 15, job listings were posted online at <www.agohq.org> and will only be accessible by AGO voting members. Individuals wishing to view these pages must first validate their membership using their AGO membership number, found on the mailing label of *The American Organist (TAO)* magazine. This policy decision, to deny the general public access to the job postings, was approved unanimously by the AGO National Council at its meeting in October. For further information, please contact the AGO membership department at <members@agohq.org> or 212.870.2310.

When you go to view the details of a position available on-line, you will be asked to fill in a user name and password. Your user name and password will be your unique AGO identification number. Your ID number is also located above your name on the address label that appears on your copy of *The American Organist* magazine each month. When prompted to fill in the User Name and Password fields, please enter your ID number in both fields to gain access to the details of all job openings. This login procedure may be further refined and enhanced in the weeks ahead. *



— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

DECEMBER

- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
 31 8:00 PM **LAST BLAST 2008** – The Plymouth Brass – For tickets call 402.421.2452 – First-Plymouth Congregational Church
 U.C.C. – 2000 D Street, Lincoln

JANUARY

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
 9 12:10 PM **FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES** – David Schack, Organist – Saint Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street,
 Lincoln – **NOTE: SECOND FRIDAY**
 10 9:00 AM **JANUARY AGO MEETING** – Hymn/Service Playing Workshop – David Heller, Presenter – Church of the Holy
 Trinity, Episcopal – 6001 A Street, Lincoln
 11 3:00 PM **AGO ORGAN RECITAL** – David Heller, Organist – Church of the Holy Trinity, Episcopal – 6001 A Street, Lincoln
 22 **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
 22 7:30 PM **UNL FACULTY RECITAL** – Christopher Marks, Organist – Kimball Recital Hall – 11th at R Street, Lincoln



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

NEBRASKA

Smack in the middle of our great nation
 Is a state that requires some explanation.
 To east and west coasters who'll come right out and ask ya',
 "Is there anything of interest in the State of Nebraska?"

It's true we don't have mountains all decked out in snow,
 But we do have the world's biggest live chicken show.
 We're the makers of Spam. We invented Kool-Aid,
 And this is where the first Reuben sandwich was made.

Our insect, the Honeybee. Our bird, the Meadowlark.
 The strobe light, our creation, works best in the dark.
 Governmentally speaking, we're a freak of nature.
 Since we have the only one-house State Legislature.

On Arbor Day, when you plant a tree,
 Remember that it started in Nebraska City.
 We were once called a desert, but that name didn't take,
 Since we have the country's largest underground lake.

We have! the world's largest forest planted by hand,
 And more miles! of rivers than any state in the land.
 The College World Series calls Omaha "home,"
 And yes, this is where the buffalo used to roam.

We were the first state in the nation to finish our Interstate section,
 And the first to run two women in the gubernatorial election!
 We invented 9-1-1 emergency communication,
 And we're the number one producer of center pivot irrigation.

Our woolly mammoth fossil is the largest ever found,
 And our monumental "Carhenge" is certain to abound.
 We have several museums that could be called odd,
 Dedicated to Chevy's, fur trading, roller skates and sod.

In Blue Hill, Nebraska, no woman wearing a hat,
 Can eat onions in public. Imagine that!
 We built the largest porch swing and indoor rain forest,
 And anyone who visits is sure to adore us.

So pack up the kiddies, the pets and the wife,
 And see why Nebraska is called
 "THE GOOD LIFE."

(Oh gosh – it doesn't even once mention football!?!)(OR that the
 yellow color of school buses originated in Franklin, NE) *

Anonymous

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Lincoln Chapter AGO
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461