

# Chiff-Chat

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

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## Jim's Jottings

By James J. Lytton, ChM, Dean

I guess that we must be in the lazy hazy days of summer, at least according to the temperature. Of course, as church musicians, this is a time to re-charge and get reorganized for the upcoming "new year" which, as we all know, begins in September.

There are lots of exciting things happening in Lincoln. We will have a "bonus" recital by Leo Abbott from Boston as part of the First Friday series at Saint Paul United Methodist Church in September. Tom Trenney is coming to First-Plymouth Church and he will play a recital on September 20. John Scott will be playing a recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church to make up for the recital that was cancelled due to snow. His recital will take place in November. And several new faces will appear as part of Lincoln Organ Showcase this year.

And, on October 11, we will have a recital by three of the students from the Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced that we hosted in July of 2008. Their recital will take place at Saint Paul church also.

There were several of us in Wichita for the Region VI AGO Convention which was very good with a lot of wonderful programs. In addition to a good contingent from Lincoln, Gerald Holbrook was there as he now lives in Colorado which is still in Region VI. And our very own Michael Emmerich won the playing competition and played a wonderful recital for the convention!

Two students from the Lincoln chapter, Nolan Pribnow and Cole Sartore attended the Pipe Organ Encounter in Kansas City. They both seemed

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## Boston Organist Heads First Friday Recital Series at St. Paul United Methodist

Leo Abbott, Director of Music and Organist at Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, will head this season's First Friday Organ Recital Series at Saint Paul United Methodist (1144 M Street) Lincoln, on Friday, September 4 at 12:10 p.m.

Mr. Abbott will give a second recital at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, on Sunday, September 6 at 5 p.m. as part of the Langenberg Organ Recital Series.

Mr. Abbott holds the ChM and FAGO Certificates of the American Guild of Organists. His teachers include Theodore Marier, George Faxon, Clarence Watters and Flor Peeters, organ, and Naji Hakim in improvisation. He has won first prize in several national and international organ competitions including the Fort Wayne Competition, and the Diane Bish Organ Competition. In 1984, he was a finalist in the Grand Prix de Chartres competition in France. He is an active member of the AGO, the Organ Historical Society and the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians.

Mr. Abbott has performed throughout the United States, in France, Belgium and Ireland. In 2010, Leo has been invited to give recitals at Notre Dame Cathedral and the Church of Saint Sulpice in Paris.

I've had the good fortune to know Leo for more than 30 years of my Boston residency where he was my first organ instructor. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend one or both of these recitals, which promise to be most exciting.

—Dan Ahlin, Lincoln Chapter AGO Board Member

## Look What's in Store for 2009-2010! Chapter Programs and Lincoln Organ Showcase Concerts

**September, 2009** A video presentation of Apparition of the Eternal Church at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Plus a report from the Wichita Convention. And a pot luck dinner and a chance to explore the new organ.

**October 11, 2009** Recital by three alumni of the Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced program from the summer of 2008. Erik Fricke, Chris Keenan and Kevin Neel will be presented in recital at Saint Paul United Methodist Church. The Vivian Lytton Memorial Concert.

**November 2, 2009** A member's recital at Redeemer Lutheran Church will be preceded by a potluck dinner.

**January 4, 2010** An organ workshop with Christopher Marks at First-Plymouth Church, preceded by a pot luck dinner.

**February 1, 2010** Our annual student recital will be preceded by a pot luck dinner at First Presbyterian Church.

**March 1, 2010** A choral workshop with Kurt von Kampen from Concordia University at Grace Lutheran Church with a pot luck dinner.

**April, 2010** An organ crawl to Fremont as part of our joint meeting with the Omaha Chapter.

**May 3, 2010** A chance to explore the new Phoenix organ at First Christian Church with a potluck dinner. And the annual meeting of the chapter.

Information about all of these programs is available on the chapter's web site: [www.agolincoln.org](http://www.agolincoln.org)

### Lincoln Organ Showcase 2009-2010



**November 1, 2009**  
Jan Kraybill, First United Methodist Church



**November 20, 2009**  
John Scott, Westminster Presbyterian Church



**February 7, 2010**  
Ahreum Han, First Presbyterian Church



**March 6, 2010**  
Aaron David Miller, Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska



**May 2, 2010**  
Jean Baptiste Robin, Saint Paul United Methodist Church

*All programs are subject to change.*

### **Congratulations, Michael!**

Lincoln chapter-member Michael Emmerich was the winner of the Region VI playing competition held in Wichita on June 14. As a result, Michael won a prize of \$1,000, and played a recital for the Region VI convention. He will play a recital for the AGO National Convention in Washington, DC next summer.

**Dean's Column, Continued from p. 1 ...**

to have a good experience. I know that Cole has set some new repertoire standards for himself.

And in addition to the new faces in Lincoln Organ Showcase, we have set a good series of programs for the chapter for the 2009 – 2010 programming year. Opportunities for members to play, to hear students, to explore new electronic organs, many ways to expand our horizons.

And St. Cecilia's Cathedral is having organ recitals on the four Sundays of July.

Whew!

Have you sent in your dues yet for next year? Now is the time.

Hope to see you in church some time.

*Jim Lytton*

**Wowin' 'em in Wichita**  
**A Report from the Region VI AGO Convention**  
*by Jim Hejduk*

*[Editor's note: Because of space constraints, we are publishing here an excerpt of Jim Hejduk's convention report. This portion of the report is a shortened version of Jim's highlights from Day 1 of the convention. Please go to [www.agolincoln.org](http://www.agolincoln.org) for the full version!]*

**From Day One ...** The big attraction for me was the 1986, IV/84 rank Marcussen organ in Wiedemann Hall at Wichita State University. Our Tuesday morning began with a 9 AM recital by our Regional Councillor Jan Kraybill. In preparation for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation of the 113 rank Aeolian-Skinner organ at the Auditorium of the Community of Christ (formerly RLDS) in Independence, MO, Jan is replicating Catharine Crozier's dedicatory recital and played that program for us. On the program were the Bach *Passacaglia and Fugue*, the Dupré *Variations on a Noel*, and the Reubke *Sonata on Psalm 94*. The Marcussen certainly lives up to its billing as a striking instrument in a very lively acoustic.

After lunch, I attended Robert Town's engrossing narrative of the story of "The Great Marcussen Organ" back in Wiedemann Hall. While Town's personal involvement of massaging and ultimately securing funds from Gladys Wiedemann (with both help and occasional hindrance from university officials and trustees) was captivating, even galvanizing as it unfolded, what struck me most forcefully was that the overwhelming majority of this legendary pedagogue's teaching career was, in fact, carried out on the little Casavant across the street in Grace Chapel! Following Town's talk, well-known church music composer John Leavitt took the Wiedemann stage for a run-through of several noteworthy and useable choral anthems.

Back at the hotel conference center, Marlene Halstrom oversaw a review of the region's chapters' IYO programming. Lincoln more or less stole the show with its presentation augmented with the announcement that Tom Trenney will soon be counted as one of our members and the follow-up recital by three of our POEA alumni this fall. But **all** the chapters did unique programs and I was able to pick up several great ideas.

The concert that evening featured the Wichita Chamber Chorale under Robert Glassman's direction. Works ranged from Finzi's familiar "God is gone up," a beautiful 8-part a cappella Christmas motet by Mendelssohn, the "Gloria" from Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*, Bach's one-movement Cantata 118 and *Laudes Organi* by Kodaly.

## St Cecilia Organ Festival 2009

All concerts at 3 p.m. with tours immediately following.

**July 12:** Dr. Kevin Vogt, Overland Park, Kansas. Dr. Vogt will present a lecture on the Pasi organ at 7 p.m. on July 11.

**July 19:** Dr. Julia Brown, Eugene, Oregon

**July 26:** Dr. Wolfgang RübSam, International Recording Artist

For more information, contact merubisbauer@archomaha.org, or call 402-553-5524, extension 2

## ABZ's of the Organ

Meadowlark Music Festival 2009  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Lincoln  
July 15, 7:30

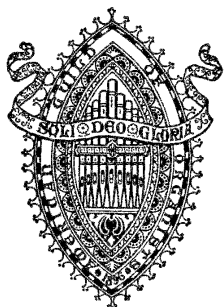
Organist Adam Peithmann, a native of Hebron, Nebraska, will join some of Lincoln's most talented musicians in this one-of-a-kind concert. The group includes Graham House (alp horn), Edwin Mukusha (bagpipes), and Joe Holmquist (xylophone). For more information, visit the Meadowlark Music Festival webpage at [www.meadowlarkmusicfestival.com](http://www.meadowlarkmusicfestival.com)

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Remember to check the Lincoln Chapter website for important updates and news!! [www.agolincoln.org](http://www.agolincoln.org)

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