



Chiff Chat

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

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MARCH, 2006

From the Dean

by Charles Ore

HOPES and DREAMS

When you Google "dreams," you enter into a unique world tainted with the kind of prompts that your parents told you to avoid! I was drawn to the "dream site" because I wanted to find meaning in the dream that was shared a number of years ago by organist/composer Jan Bender.

Bender was playing the organ for a major event at a large European church. The pastor was leading the service and announced that the first hymn would be #450. Bender opened his hymnal and was shocked to discover that the hymns in his book were not numbered. As the pages rustled throughout the sanctuary, he started counting the hymns in his book — #1,2,3,4,5,6, . . . #150, 151, 152, . . . #395, 396, 397 . . . 398 . . . etc. — as total quiet descended on the congregation he counted on toward #450 — when he approached the designated hymn, the pastor announced that since the organist apparently could not play #450 they would need to open the service by singing hymn #260.

Again the pages rustled throughout the nave as members of the congregation found the newly selected hymn. Bender had lost track and he had no idea where #260 was located, and so he needed to start counting from the beginning — #1,2,3,4,5,6 . . . #150, 151, 152 . . . #225, 226, 227 — he was almost there when, once again the pastor said that apparently the organist could not play #260 either, and in growing frustration noted that

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TWO MARCH AGO MEETINGS

WAYNE LEUPOLD WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 25

9:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

17th at F Street, Lincoln

(Enter from the 18th & F Street parking lot — SE corner of building and follow the signs.)

Wayne Leupold will be sharing his published organ teaching materials, which are programmed to get the next generation on the organ bench — STARTING THE LEARNING OF KEYBOARD RIGHT FROM THE ORGAN — as differing from first beginning on piano, and then transferring over to organ. Bring a brown bag lunch to eat at 12:30 p.m., while you share with fellow attendees your reactions and comments to Wayne's presentation, as well as continue discussion and follow-up questions with the author about his materials. ♪

Potluck Dinner/Student Recital

Tuesday, March 28

6:15 p.m. Potluck Dinner

7:30 p.m. Student Recital

First Presbyterian Church

17th at F Street, Lincoln

(Enter from the 18th & F Street parking lot — SE corner of building and follow the signs.)

Please come to an AGO Lincoln Guild 6:15 p.m. potluck dinner followed by a 7:30 p.m. student recital, featuring college-age performers from area colleges and universities.

For the pot luck dinner, ham will be provided as the main meat, as will tableware and drinks. Each member is invited to bring a side dish (vegetable, salad or dessert) to compliment the main dish.

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(Dinner/Recital, from Page 1)

Invite a family member, another guild member you haven't seen for sometime, or a friend who enjoys music, to join you for an evening of socializing with "the next generation of organists" and others who enjoy organ performances. ♪

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yet another substitution would need to be made, "How about #195?" "Can the organist play #195?" At every level there was mounting tension!!! Bender claimed that this was a reoccurring dream and that he always woke up with great anxiety and sweating!

The Google "dream site" can take you to places where you may not wish to go — especially since some of them ask you for "confidential" information that will not be shared with others!

Organists/church musicians have hopes and dreams — we also have mutual frustrations and anxieties. Negative emotions can show up in many destructive ways — sometimes as "nightmares," sometimes as anger, intense anxiety or bitterness in the workplace . . . sometimes we even isolate ourselves and nurture our personal pain.

The AGO is a great place to start sharing your hopes and dreams with others — you can even laugh, cry, commiserate, or enjoy great organ music and hear distinguished clinicians . . . in other words replenish your hopes and dreams by attending some or all of the upcoming activities that are sponsored by your Lincoln AGO — many of these activities are set forth in this issue of *Chiff-Chat*. ♪

Charles

Correction

Vernon Groves, as stated in the February issue of *Chiff Chat*, is NOT retired from First Presbyterian Church, Hastings. He is the organist at the church. Please make this correction in your membership book. ♪



The Steering Committee has been working through January and February to tweak the festival budget for final approval from the AGO national office. We are almost there!

Typically, the cost of conventions of this type run over \$80,000. It seems a bit daunting. But there are many sources to help generate income to pay for the expenses. Our chapter has approximately \$7,000, which was income from the convention held in Lincoln in 1985. Set aside for projects such as another convention, it has helped us with start-up expenses and relieved us of having to borrow money from national headquarters. The 1985 convention committee did a great job of planning and paving the way for us to continue to support our profession.

Additional funding for the convention/festival will come from many sources including; registration fees, gifts and grants, donations, underwriting, advertising, exhibits, concert ticket sales, and transportation.

We have also included an opportunity for each of you, as members of the guild, to contribute financially toward the success of the festival. We are asking for each one of you to make a tax deductible donation of \$20. This is a small amount and easy for most of us to make. If you are able, however, please consider giving more generously for the sake of those who find even a small donation to be a hardship. Together we can take pride in doing our part to strengthen and build the future of our profession. ♪

First Friday Noon Concerts

Dr. Cynthia A. Miltner, Organist
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M Street, Lincoln
March 3 — 12:10 p.m.



Dr. Cynthia A. Miltner will be the featured organist in the Saint Paul First Friday Noon Concerts in March. Her selections will include works by Buxtehude, Handel, Pachelbel, Marpurg, Böehm, and J. S. Bach. Dr. Miltner is currently organist at the Second Church of Christ, Scientist and associate organist at First-Plymouth Congregational Church in



Miltner

Lincoln. She has performed concerts extensively in Nebraska, Ohio, Florida, and Texas. Dr. Miltner has played the organ dedication recitals for the Saint Paul United Methodist Church in Elmwood, Nebraska in 1976 and for the Southern

Heights Presbyterian Church in Lincoln in 1991. ♪

Southwood Choir to Sing at Kennedy Center

The Senior Choir at Southwood Lutheran Church as been personally invited by John Leavitt to sing with him at a special Memorial Day weekend concert at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, May 28, 2006, The choir will be singing with a mass choir, his new work "Jubilee." which is a collection of spirituals including *My Lord, What a Morning; This Little Light of Mine; How Sweet the Sound (Amazing Grace); Kum Bah Yah; Go Down, Moses; and There is a Balm in Gilead.* John Leavitt is a composer/organist from Wichita, Kansas who has visited Southwood Lutheran as a guest clinician on several occasions. Denise Makinson is the Director of Music Ministries at Southwood Lutheran. ♪

Ross Organ Recital

John Ross will give an organ recital on Sunday, March 5th at 2:00 p.m. at Saint Paul United Methodist Church. The program will include works by Mathias, Roberts, J. S. Bach, Mendelssohn and Widor.

John is a senior at UNL studying with Quentin Faulkner. He is also on the program committee for the Region VI AGO Convention to be held here in Lincoln in 2007.

www.agolincoln.org/

The recital is free and open to the public. ♪

Donald Callen Freed Moves to Texas

Donald Callen Freed, a member of the Lincoln Chapter AGO, is director of choral music and associate professor of voice at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, TX, a town of about 6,000 population in southwest Texas, and center for the Big Bend area. In the summer he will be vocal director for the Theater of the Big Bend, which will be doing two musicals outdoors, similar to Pinewood Bowl, but under the auspices of the University.

The choir at the University has about 25 voices, and he has 9 voice students. An interdisciplinary Fine Arts degree is offered on both the BA and MA level, in addition to music education.

He lives in a duplex on Sunset Circle in west Alpine, with a wonderful view of the Davis Mountains (the town itself is 4,500 feet above sea level). The town is a mix of white, Latino, and other races and is very eclectic, with a lot of art galleries, as is the neighboring community of Marfa. Don returned to UNK on October 18 to be presenter and performer at a conference on Fine Arts & Disability.

Don sang the Star Spangled Banner for home football games at Sul Ross, as well. ♪

AGO/Quimby Competition Winner

The American Guild of Organists recently announced winners in nine AGO/Quimby regional competitions for young organists (RCYO). The competitions, held in conjunction with the summer 2005 AGO regional conventions, were made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president of Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

T. Jared Stellmacher, Ripon, Wisconsin, was the first place winner of Region VI — North Central.

Second place winner was Adam Peithman, Hebron, NE. Adam was born in Hebron and began his musical life at the piano at a very young age. However, it was not until the beginning of high school that he decided to become an organist. He received his first lessons from a member of his church and later became a student of Diana Johnson of Stromsburg.

Mr. Peithman won the Fort Hays State Solo Competition in 2002, and the Lincoln AGO Chapter's competition in 2003. He currently studies with David Higgs at the Eastman School of Music as well as with William Porter and Joel Speerstra.

He is director of music at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Rochester, NY, and plans to pursue a career in church music, teaching, and performance. ♪

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

February	26	4:30 p.m.	Concordia Seminary Chorus — Pacific Hills Lutheran Church — 90 th at Pacific Street, Omaha
March	3	12:10 p.m.	FIRST FRIDAY NOON CONCERTS — Dr. Cynthia A. Miltner, Organist — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1144 M Street, Lincoln
	5	2:00 p.m.	ORGAN RECITAL — John Ross, Organist — Saint Paul Methodist Church — 1144 M Street, Lincoln
	15		DEADLINE for April issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> — Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2 Lincoln, NE 68528; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com
	25	9:30 a.m.	AGO MEETING — Wayne Leupold Workshop — First Presbyterian Church — 17th at F Street, Lincoln
	28	6:15 p.m.	AGO MEETING — Potluck Dinner/Student Recital — First Presbyterian Church — 17th at F Street, Lincoln

Looking Ahead . . .

Mark your calendars now for our **Tuesday, May 8th, "Road Tour" meeting in Omaha to spend an evening at the home of Robert Markworth.** His house was designed around a beautiful home theatre organ, which we will hear in concert later in the evening. We will be "mixing" with members from the Omaha AGO Guild, as well as Theatre Organ Society members. We are making plans to arrange for bus travel from Lincoln (projected departure time of 5:30 p.m.), "box dinner" at 6:45 p.m. at the Markworth home, and then a concert at 7:30 or 7:45 p.m. We are projecting the cost of the evening to be between \$20 and \$25. More details and registration forms will come out in the next issue of *Chiff-Chat*. Plan to attend a most memorable end-of-the-season event. ♪

COUNTDOWN TO CHICAGO!

We hope you can join us in magnificent Chicago! We now want to begin to tantalize you with some of the incredible musical opportunities that await you in the Windy City! For many years acclaimed as one of the great choirs on the planet, hear the SWEDISH RADIO CHOIR in breathtaking acoustics! Enjoy mother/son, piano/organ duo JEANNINE and ALAN MORRISON in recital in addition to our resident virtuoso DAVID SCHRADER! Many, many more exciting details to come! Early registration closed January 31. ChicAGO 2006 is offering full on line registration. Check out our Web site at www.agohq.org/2006 or find the forms in issues of *The American Organist Magazine!* ♪

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