



Chiff Chat

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

Volume 78, Number 7

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March, 2008

JIM'S JOTTINGS

by Dean – James J. Lytton, ChM

“Promoting the Organ”



Richard Elliott certainly gave a wonderful recital last Friday night. The transcription of “Pictures at an Exhibition” was clearly a highlight and really wonderful, showing off the various voices of the Schoenstein organ. There was a good crowd in attendance and the evening was a big success.

Two AGO programs are forthcoming: Charles Ore will host a program about the “Best of the Past Fifty Years” on February 18, and then we have a student recital in March. Both of these programs will be preceded by a potluck dinner which is a great time to get to know members of our chapter better. And the student recital is a great way to show support for our students. After all, who will replace you when you decide to step down?

Looking ahead, we have two events that will be happening in the near future: The first is the first-ever Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced. Lincoln has been chosen as the site for this event and it is a trail-blazing one. Chris Marks and the rest of the committee preparing for the POE Advanced are hard at work getting things lined up: churches, dormitories, transportation, etc. Unlike other POEs, students (maximum age 18) must audition for the POE Advanced and applications are beginning to arrive in Lincoln. A brochure has been printed – it is available on our chapter Web site. If you would like to have some hard copies, they are available; currently the brochures are in my garage. But in July, there will be twenty of the brightest and best young organists from around the country in residence at UNL studying with ten master teachers, also from around the country. Recitals will be given by some of the master teachers and on Friday, July 11, the twenty students will be presented in recital. Stay tuned!

On July 1, we will begin the celebration of the
(Turn to PROMOTING, Page 2)

MARCH AGO MEETING



Student Recital

Monday, March 10

Potluck 6:00 PM — Recital 7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

840 South 17th Street, Lincoln

Join us for a festive potluck dinner (tableware and drinks provided) at 6:00 PM in the Great Hall of First Presbyterian Church where we will fete our student recitalists who will be playing for us at 7:00 PM on the sanctuary Reuter organ.

Bring whatever you wish to the potluck. It worked fine in October in terms of variety and no one left hungry!

If you have a student/students who would like to perform that evening, please send their names and selection/composer to Jim Hejduk (hejduk1@windstream.net or 1860 G Street, Apt. B, Lincoln, NE 68508-3746) for inclusion in the printed program.



Practice time at the church will be somewhat limited owing to a church concert on Sunday, March 9. To arrange time on the organ, please call Carol Tucker (402.477.6037) at the church. **Monday, March 10 is the optimum day to schedule time.** The office staff will be at the church from 8:00 AM on. However, Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7 are acceptable back-up dates. †

February AGO Meeting

Charles W. Ore, Presenter

“The Best of the Last 50 Years”

Monday, February 18

Potluck 6:00 PM — Workshop 7:00 PM

First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C.

2000 D Street, Lincoln

— Vote on “Chapter Operating Procedures” —



(PROMOTING, from Page 1)

International Year of the Organ. This is a program that comes from our national office and is a way for us to celebrate the organ and bring attention to it through various programs. Hopefully, publicity will also result from our efforts. There is a task force, headed by Pam Penner, that is working to put together programs for the year. At this point, with planning a "work in progress," it is not possible to mention any names or places yet. But it is looking to be an exciting year. As with the POE Advanced, stay tuned!

Many of us are involved in our churches' solemnity of Lent as we prepare for Easter. Lent is a time of preparation and Easter is a time of celebration. In some ways the POE Advanced and the International Year of the Organ are our preparation time and the actual events are the celebrations. But these events don't just happen. There are lots of people involved with the preparation and more people will be needed as the time arrives for the celebration. Please don't hesitate to volunteer to help with these events. We have a real opportunity to make an impact on our community on behalf of the organ and church music. What a great opportunity! What a wonderful time it would be, if we have lots of chapter members involved with these two events!

Lastly, I have to remind you that we will be voting on new Chapter Operating Procedures on Monday, February 18, at the AGO meeting with Charles Ore. The board has worked hard on this project which will be governing the chapter for the future. There is a copy posted on our chapter Web site and copies will be available at the meeting. This is your chapter and your input is needed on this issue. I hope to see you at the chapter meeting on February 18. †



**Operating Procedures
for
Lincoln Chapter**

A quorum vote is necessary for the passage of the Chapter's operating procedures.

Come and vote at the February 18 AGO meeting at 6:00 PM.

**— First Presbyterian Church —
840 South 17th Street, Lincoln**

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CASAVANT

Concordia University in Seward is anxiously awaiting the arrival of their new Casavant (III/38) pipe organ for Heine Recital Hall in the Music Center. Recital Hall renovations are currently underway and the organ is due to arrive in Seward during the latter part of April. Watch future editions of *Chiff Chat* for announcements of specific details regarding the inaugural season of Casavant, Opus 3868.

But, mark your calendars – Felix Hell will be in Seward playing programs on both Saturday, March 21, 2009 (7:00 PM) and Sunday, March 22, 2009 (3:00 PM). For more information about the Casavant, visit www.cune.edu/music and click on Casavant Organ Update. †

First Friday Concert Series

Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M Street, Lincoln, will host the sixth concert of the 2007-2008 *First Friday Concert* series Friday, March 7. The

concert, featuring Dr. John Friesen on the Bedient pipe organ, will begin at 12:10 p.m.

Dr. Friesen is the organist for Saint Paul. He has prepared an organ recital that is both fun and educational. John will perform *Rex: The King of Instruments*, an organ demonstrator designed to teach people of all ages how the pipe organ works and the sounds it makes through



John Friesen

entertaining music and spoken word. Keith Ghormley, dramatist, will deliver the narration. Dr. Friesen will also perform *Scenes of Childhood*, musical interpretations of five poems from *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson. *Autumn fires, Rain, The Cow, The Moon, and Pirate Story* will be read before the musical performance of each piece. The poems will appeal to the imagination of children and adults alike.

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 in Paine Parlor, adjacent to the church sanctuary. †

MYRON J. ROBERTS RETROSPECTIVE

Sunday, May 18 – 3:00 PM

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
6001 A Street, Lincoln**

THANK YOU to those of you who have volunteered to perform in the May program. We are still looking for people (particularly Myron's students) to:

- sing in the choir,
- send in any written memories and testimonials about Myron.

Contact Dick Morris . . .

crichardmo@yahoo.com or 402.261.3104; 5915 Billings Drive; Lincoln, NE 68516-5960.

. . . to indicate your interest and send testimonials. Also tell Dick of any students you know who studied with Myron. †

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



You can still sign up to receive your *Chiff Chat* electronically. Just e-mail Mike Veak (mveak@neb.rr.com) to be placed on the list. †



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ross, John
1933 Groveland Street
Lincoln NE 68521-1724

organistjohn@gmail.com †

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN

Pam Penner, CAGO, and Director of the Task Force on the International Year of the Organ, is requesting that anyone with an event in your church, or community, to send it to be included in a compilation of concerts over the entire year – **July 2008 through June 2009.**

You can help in two ways:

- spread the word to churches and friends about the Lincoln Chapter's project, and
- send in events anytime that span the dates listed above.

In addition to the Guild publishing a list of all concerts, we will have a compilation on our chapter Web site, which will be the most current listing.

Send the name of the concert, performers, location, date and time of the concert to Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; 402.817.0830; mveak@neb.rr.com Mike will see that the appropriate persons receive the information. †



Are you sure there are only
Six more weeks of winter?

ABERDAMUSIKLINCOLN

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we regret that the Concordia College Choir concert scheduled for March 6th has been canceled.

We are pleased to announce that we have scheduled the Omaha Chamber Singers under the direction of David Batter to appear on Palm Sunday, March 16th at 4:00 PM. Tickets will be \$20.00 for adults, \$15.00 for seniors and \$10.00 for children.

To learn more about this wonderful ensemble, please visit their Web site:

www.omahachambersingersonline.org †

TROTТА CONCERTS

Laura Trotta, student member of the Lincoln Chapter AGO, is the undergraduate concerto competition winner and will be performing with the UNL Orchestra. Laura will be performing the fourth movement of Joseph Jongen's *Symphonie Concertante* with the orchestra on Saturday, March 8, 7:30 PM, at Kimball Recital Hall, 11th at R Street, Lincoln.

On Sunday, March 9, 3:00 PM, Laura will be giving her UNL junior organ recital at First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C., 2000 D Street, Lincoln. †

POSITION AVAILABLE

Director of Music and Organist (part-time)

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
113 North 18th Street
Omaha NE 68012

Contact: The Very Reverend Thomas J. Hurley, Dean and Rector –

tjhurley@aol.com.

Church Web site: <http://www.trinityepiscopal.org> †

DONALD CALLEN FREED

Dr. Donald Callen Freed, a Lincoln Chapter AGO member, teaching at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, has two choral publications with Moon of Hope Publishing, Galesburg, Illinois:

1. In the Lord You are Light, BG032006 (SAB)
2. In the Bleak Midwinter, BG032007 (SAB)

In addition, Don was informed recently that his article, "Working with Aging Singers," would be published in an upcoming issue of *The American Organist*. This article is an outgrowth of his presentation on the subject at the 2007 Region VI conference of the AGO here in Lincoln last June. †

Go to www.agolincoln.org/ for a copy of the
Chapter Operating Procedures.

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

FEBRUARY

- 18 6:00 PM **FEBRUARY AGO MEETING** – "The Best of the Last Fifty Years" – Charles W. Ore, Presenter – First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C. – 2000 D Street, Lincoln – Potluck at 6:00 PM in Mayflower Hall – Program at 7:00 PM in church sanctuary – **IMPORTANT VOTE OF CHAPTER OPERATING PROCEDURES**

MARCH

- 3 7:00 PM **AGO BOARD MEETING** – First Lutheran Church – 1551 South 70th Street, Lincoln
- 6 7:30 PM **ABENDMUSIK:LINCOLN** – Concordia College Choir **CANCELED** – First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C. – 2000 D Street, Lincoln
- 7 12:10 PM **FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES** – Dr. John Friesen, Organist – Saint Paul Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln
- 8 7:30 PM **ORGAN AND ORCHESTRA** – Laura Trotta, Organist, with the UNL Orchestra – Kimball Recital Hall – 11th at R Street, Lincoln
- 9 3:00 PM **UNL JUNIOR ORGAN RECITAL** – Laura Trotta, Organist – First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C. – 2000 D Street, Lincoln
- 10 6:00 PM **MARCH AGO MEETING** – Student Recital – 6:00 PM Potluck – 7:00 PM Recital – First Presbyterian Church – 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln
- 16 **PALM SUNDAY**
- 4:00 PM **ABENDMUSIK:LINCOLN** – Omaha Chamber Singers – First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C. – 2000 D Street, Lincoln – **THIS IS A REPLACEMENT CONCERT THAT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED MARCH 6**
- 20 **DEADLINE for April issue of Chiff Chat** – Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com



23 **EASTER**
LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL . . .

- 13 3:00 PM **LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE** – Mary Preston, Organist – Saint Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln
- 5:00 PM **ORGAN RECITAL** – Masako Makamuro Bacon, AAGO, Organist – First Presbyterian Church – 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings



A program of music for the king of instruments



Sundays at 8:30 PM – KZUM 89.3 FM

CD BY CHRISTOPHER MARKS NOW AVAILABLE

Christopher Marks' new recording, *Organ Music of Seth Bingham, Vol. 1: "Unto the Hills"* is now available from Raven. Recorded last fall on the Schoenstein organ at First-Plymouth Congregational Church U.C.C., this is the first recording devoted entirely to the organ music of Seth Bingham, and is the first in what will likely be at least three discs. The first CD volume includes four major suites published in the period 1937 to 1951: Pastoral Psalms, Op. 30; Five Pieces, Op. 36; Baroques, Op. 41; and Variation Studies, Op. 54. Some of the movements in these suites appear on recording for the very first time here. The disc is available from the www.RavenCD.com Web site for \$14.98, including worldwide shipping. †



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