



Jim's Jottings

by Dean, James J. Lytton, ChM

Is it spring yet?

We all know that Nebraska winters can be filled with changes; snow today, 60s tomorrow. But this time of the year is also a changing time for the AGO. We are beginning to plan meetings for next year. Right now, we are planning a choral workshop, an organ workshop, the "annual" student recital and our member's recital, as well. Several other programs are on the back burner.

But these programs will only be successful, IF our members attend these programs. Sometimes our attendance at chapter programs is a little sparse, which is disappointing to those who plan the meetings.

So, I encourage your input. If you have ideas for programs that would entice you to attend, please let us know. Contact our Sub-Dean, Jim Hejduk, at 742.9017 or hejduk1@windstream.net or contact me at 421.0975 or jlytton@gmail.com. We welcome your suggestions and hope to see you at upcoming meetings.



Jim Lytton

RCYO Competition

by Dan Ahlin

Competition Coordinator

The Lincoln Chapter AGO is sponsoring a RCYO Competition to be held on Saturday, March 28 at 1:30 PM at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 6001 A Street, Lincoln.

Regrettably, we have but one competitor, but per AGO rulings, the competition must take place. There will be three judges and two alternate judges for the competition. A cash prize will be awarded the winner, and he/she will then compete at the Region VI convention in Wichita, KS in June. However, the judges are not obliged to award a prize to the competitor, if they deem it appropriate. For fairness in judging, the names of the judges and the competitor must remain anonymous until the conclusion of the competition.

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend the competition.



March AGO Meeting

[With the Omaha AGO as Our Guests]

SAMUEL GASKIN RETURNS TO LINCOLN

(with nary a hurricane in sight!)

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

840 South 17th Street, Lincoln



Samuel Gaskin

Samuel Gaskin and his parents, Bart and Masako Gaskin, found themselves seeking refuge from Hurricane Rita as she blew through their hometown of Beaumont, Texas in the early fall of 2005. They landed on the doorstep of aunt and uncle Ferlie and Malcolm Gaskin here in Lincoln. Samuel soon landed on the doorstep of College View Seventh Day Adventist Church (his uncle Malcolm teaches at Union College) to see and play the organ, then First-Plymouth, UCC, where Larry Monson invited him to play the postludes for the Sunday services. The following week, he visited John Friesen at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church and John, upon hearing him, suggested he appear as a guest artist at our Regional Convention in 2007. Samuel also visited George Ritchie at UNL (on the recommendation of Joyce Jones at Baylor) who, in turn, told him about the organs at First and Westminster Presbyterian churches and also invited him to play the Bedient organ at Cornerstone.

In his wake, Samuel left a trail of impressed, yea, stunned admirers and also garnered a great article by Bob Reeves in the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Samuel not only returned to play at our Regional Convention, but also returned with a host of talented contemporaries to participate in the first-ever Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced last summer organized by Chris Marks. And now we're privileged to present him in another solo recital at First Presbyterian Church as part of our celebratory and consciousness-raising International Year of the Organ.

In 2006, at age 14, Samuel became the youngest organist to be awarded the first prize in the high school division of the Albert Schweitzer Organ

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■ GASKIN

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Competition in Wethersfield, CT. Samuel has been a prize winner in the 2007 André Marchal International Organ Competition in Biarritz, France, the Miami International Organ Competition and the Carlene Neihart International Organ Competition in Kansas City, both in 2008. Samuel has already enjoyed several study trips to Europe, highlighted by lessons with Mme. Marie-Louis Langlais and a recital at the church of St. Roch.

Currently, Samuel is organist for his home church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, in Beaumont. Beginning his studies at age 9 with Hugh E. Thompson at Beaumont's First United Methodist Church, Samuel now studies organ with Christina Harmon of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas and piano with Dr. Andrew Parr of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Please join us to hear this remarkable young artist. You'll be able to say "I heard him when . . ."

A reception will follow in the Great Hall.

The Augsburg Choir

Voices of Grace presents

The Augsburg Choir

March 14, 7:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln

Free admission, a free-will offering will be taken to defray the choir's expenses.

The 70-voice Augsburg Choir represents the finest in choral music. Praised for its versatility and musicality, the choir, directed by Dr. Peter Hendrickson, upholds the College's long history of choral excellence. Augsburg College is a private liberal arts college, founded in 1869 and affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The campus is located in Minneapolis.



In Memoriam

Dean of the Lincoln Chapter AGO, Jim Lytton, ChM, mourns the death of his Mother, Vivian Doris Lytton, who died at the age of 91 on Tuesday, January 27th at The Landing at Williamsburg

Village, Lincoln. Services were held at The Landing on February 5.

Spring

Spring Begins March 20

First Friday Concert Series

at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, is proud to showcase Dr. Claire Bushong, organist, Friday, March 6 at 12:10 PM.

Bushong, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Chapel Music at Dana College, teaches keyboard instruments, music theory, church music and other related courses. She also teaches at Midland Lutheran College in a joint appointment between the two Nebraska ELCA colleges.

She serves as organist at Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont and has been a leader of church music educational ventures in the Nebraska Synod ELCA. She is active in the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, having served for several years as the music review editor for Cross Accent, and is Immediate Past Dean of the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She is organ instructor for the St. Cecilia Institute for Liturgical Formation in Omaha. Her degrees include Doctor of Musical Arts in organ performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she studied with George Ritchie and Quentin Faulkner, Master of Music in piano performance from the University of Tulsa, and Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Phillips University.

The concert is free and open to the public. The event will take place in Saint Paul's sanctuary, located at 1144 M Streets, Lincoln. This is the seventh year that Saint Paul UMC has hosted the *First Friday Noon Concert Series*.

Abendmusik At Zion

March 1 – 3:00 PM

Laura Trotta, NU organ student, will present an organ recital at Zion Church, Imperial. Laura, a member of the Lincoln Chapter AGO executive board, is also a 2009 recipient of the Eva V. Stroud Christensen Memorial Award through the University of Nebraska Foundation. Admission is free to the March 1, 3:00 PM recital. A reception will follow the recital.

Dr. J. Gordon Christensen AAGO, Director of Music/Organist, is the music director at Zion Church and is a member of the Lincoln Chapter AGO. Zion Church is located at 1305 Broadway, Imperial. Note: Imperial is in the Mountain Time Zone.

Hastings Organ Series

Vernon Groves announces the final concert of the year for the Hastings Organ Series:

March 22 – Paul Oakley, Organist

Concerts are at 5:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings.

Nebraska Proclamation

Governor Dave Heineman's proclamation by the State of Nebraska for the International Year of the Organ appeared (again) in *The American Organist*, February, 2009 issue, on page 72.



AGO is an LSO Corporate Sponsor

As members of the AGO, you are eligible for a \$15 discount on single tickets to Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra performances throughout the year. Telephone the LSO office at 402.476.2211, or visit their Web site www.lincolnsymphony.com.

Looking ahead to April . . . be sure to call the symphony office to secure your tickets for "Pedals and Pipes," Christopher Marks, Organist with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. The dates: April 2 or April 3 (7:30 PM).

From the Archives by Sinda Dux, Historian

In March 1942, the Guild decided not to go to Beatrice because the group "thought it best to save on tires, gas & etc." Mrs. Vera Luke invited the Guild to Seward "after our strenuous times are over."

The Lincoln chapter, in May 1942 held a contest for student organists who were required to play the Bach Prelude and Fugue in either B flat or d, one slow movement from a Mendelssohn sonata, one piece of the contestant's choice, and one hymn selected by judges Paul LeBar, Donald Kettring and Cornelia Cole. Prizes were three volumes of the Widor-Schweitzer edition of Bach. A.C. Lovelace and Grace Finch were in charge of the contest. First prize was presented to Ernest Ulmer and second prize to Miss Lela Lyne, both students of Myron Roberts.

During the 1942 Christmas party at Margaret MacGregor's home, "Lincoln's first blackout added a little excitement to the party," according to Secretary Cornelia Cole.

January 1943 the Treasury balance was \$34.54 and the Guild voted to buy a \$18.75 war bond.

"Following brief discussion as to what should be done with the bond the secretary was instructed to write to headquarters to see if it could be kept there." Harold Friedell, national treasurer, replied that the war bond could be kept in a vault at headquarters and that's what the Guild did.

A violin quartet, Margaret Stacy, Helen Fitch, Jean Thomas and Geraldyn Kelley, all of Lincoln, under the direction of Mrs. GERALYN BENNETT, entertained at a Guild meeting. The Guild voted to spend \$2.00 to buy them "favors and gifts."

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Felix Hell to Play at Concordia

Organ Recital – Felix Hell, Organist

March 21 – 3:00 PM & March 22 – 3:00 PM

Concordia University

One block east of North Columbia Avenue & Hillcrest Street, Seward

Felix Hell will be playing two recitals (both the same program)

Tickets for both concerts are free, but are required, due to limited seating. Tickets can be obtained from Sue Kohlwey, 402.643.7408 or sue.kohlwey@cune.edu

Chorale at Southwood Lutheran



The Valparaiso University Chorale will present a concert of hymns, folk songs and spirituals at Southwood Lutheran Church on Monday, March 2 at 7:00 PM. Directed by Dr. Christopher M. Cock, the chorale will tour the cities of Milwaukee, St. Louis, St. Paul, Kansas City, Des Moines and Lincoln. A free-will offering will be

collected to support the choir. The concert is sponsored jointly by Southwood Lutheran and Messiah Lutheran churches. Located in Valparaiso, Indiana, Valpo is one of the nation's largest Lutheran universities – <http://www.valpo.edu>

Southwood Lutheran Church

9300 South 40th Street, Lincoln (1/4 mile south of Yankee Hill Road)

For more information contact: Denise Makinson, Director of Worship and Music Ministries at Phone: 402.423.5511 or dmakinson@southwoodlutheran.org

The Faulkners' German Tour

In case you missed it, you may wish to go to pages 53-54 of your February 2009 issue of *The American Organist* magazine and read the review of Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkners' "Bach's Organ World Tour" last October, 2008.

Additionally, they are planning another trip July 20-31, 2009 to Dresden, Leipzig, Berlin and more. You can gain further information by calling 1.800.300.8841 or on-line at www.concept-tours.com/. If you desire to talk to the Faulkners directly, you may telephone them at 413.230.3759 or by e-mail, qfaulkner1@unl.edu.

Church Bulletin Bloopers . . .

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
- Don't let worry kill you off . . . let the Church help.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

– CALENDAR OF EVENTS –

MARCH

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| 1 | 3:00 PM | ABENDMUSIK AT ZION – Laura Trotta, Organist – Zion Church – 1305 Broadway, Imperial [Note: Imperial is in the Mountain Time Zone] |
| 2 | 7:00 PM | AGO BOARD MEETING – Zion PCA – 5511 South 27th Street, Lincoln |
| | 7:00 PM | THE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY CHORALE – Southwood Lutheran Church – 9300 South 40th Street, Lincoln (1/4 mile south of Yankee Hill Road) |
| 6 | 12:10 PM | FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES – Claire Bushong, Organist – Saint Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln |
| 14 | 7:00 PM | THE AUGSBURG CHOIR – Grace Lutheran Church – 2225 Washington Street, Lincoln |
| 15 | 3:00 PM | MARCH AGO JOINT MEETING WITH OMAHA – ORGAN RECITAL – Samuel Gaskin, Organist – First Presbyterian Church – 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln |
| 20 | | DEADLINE for April issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> – Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com |
| 21/22 | 3:00 PM | ORGAN RECITAL – Felix Hell, Organist – The Music Center, Concordia University – One block east of North Columbia Avenue & Hillcrest Street, Seward [see article, this issue, about tickets] |
| 22 | 5:00 PM | HASTINGS ORGAN SERIES – Paul Oakley, Organist – First Presbyterian Church, 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings |
| 28 | 1:30 PM | RCYO Competition – Church of the Holy Trinity, Episcopal – 6001 A Street, Lincoln |

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

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| 2/3 | 7:30 PM | PEDALS & PIPES – Christopher Marks, Organist with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra – First-Plymouth Congregational Church – 2000 D Street, Lincoln – Tickets: 402.476.2211 |
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A program of music for the king of instruments – Sundays at 8:30 p.m. – KZUM 89.3 FM

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The program for Myron Roberts' October 1943 faculty organ recital was:

- Trumpet Tune and Air Purcell (this is the way Purcell was spelled in the minutes)
- Scene from the Elysian Fields--Orpheus Gluck
- Fugue in E flat--St. Anne Bach
- Toccatà LeFroid de Mereaux
- Legend Karg-Elert
- Sketch in D flat Schumann
- Twilight at Fiesole--Harmonies of Florence Seth Bingham
- Variations de Concert Joseph Bonnet

A letter was received from AGO National Headquarters appealing for funds for the purchase of ambulances for overseas. Mrs. Vera Rost was appointed to collect the funds.

A concert by Hugh Porter for which tickets were priced at 55 cents netted \$27.25 to be sent to the Ambulance Fund.

Lincoln Chapter AGO
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Lincoln NE 68528-1461