



# Chiff Chat

March 2010

Volume 80 No. 3

**Mission Statement:** The purpose of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members in the city of Lincoln and surrounding areas.

—adopted January 12, 2009

#### Executive Committee:

James J. Lytton, ChM - Dean

Jim Hejduk—Sub-Dean

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Newsletter Editor:

Rosemary Paul

## A Note From the Dean:

“Ruts”

It is easy to get in a rut especially at this time of year. Sometimes we find ourselves playing the hymns the same way (forever). I guess I am guilty because we are singing the same anthems for Ash Wednesday that we have done for several years (but Ash Wednesday does only come once a year).

I enjoy watching the church services on channel 13. I like to see what other churches are doing and how other organists approach the hymns. I do not know a schedule but I will flip through the channels and if there is something interesting on channel 13 I will watch it.

Wouldn't it be nice to have some time to go around to other churches and see what is happening? A friend of mine in Washington DC, had a sabbatical in which he had the first Sunday

off every month in order to go around and check out other churches. He and I would figure out a schedule and talk about certain churches. He went to New York City several times to attend services.

And of course there is the danger that you might find yourself at a bad Sunday.

We all have them. I remember a discussion with several colleagues about attending services at each other's churches and what would happen if it was a bad Sunday.

So in order to pull ourselves out of a rut, we need to check out what we are doing and see if we can make changes. Having just come back from CRCCM in San Francisco, we had a chance to hear other organists play services and accompany anthems and compare that against what we do. To me that is the best part of a conference such as CRCCM

because you have the opportunity to worship without worrying about the next hymn, etc. We sang Vespers or Matins every day and it was great.

Upcoming programs: Our March meeting is a choral workshop with Kurt von Kampen that should be quite good. If you are not the choir director in your church, bring your choir director to the meeting. And if you are the choir director, bring a choir director from a neighboring church.

And LOS is presenting Aaron David Miller at Concordia on the new Casavant. He is known for his hymn festivals and I believe that there will be some hymnody on the program.

Lots of opportunities to pull yourself out of a rut. Hope to see you at the choral workshop on Monday.

Jim Lytton, ChM—Dean

## Lincoln Organ Showcase

**Aaron David Miller,**

**Organist**

**March 6, 2010**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Concordia University,**

**Seward, Nebraska**

Tickets available at the door:  
Regular \$15, Senior \$10, Student with ID free,  
Children 12 and under free



## Chiff Chat

## A Note from the Sub-Dean ~ Jim Hejduk

**AGO Choral Workshop, Monday, March 1st**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**2225 Washington Street.**  
**Pot-Luck Dinner ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Workshop with**  
**Dr. Kurt Von Kampen ~ 7:00 p.m.**

“techno-host.” On Monday, **September 13, 2010**, Mary Eileen Andreasen will conduct a workshop on “Spirituality for Church Musicians” and will augment her presentation with a Powerpoint presentation requiring an LCD projector.

Many of you will remember the remarkable contribution made to the opening hymn festival at our 2007 convention by Kurt von Kampen’s amazing high school summer youth choir. Dr. Von Kampen, Director of Choral Music at Concordia University, has graciously agreed to take time between the multiple winter tours of his Concordia singers to bring us a sampling of his unique artistry with choral tips and techniques as well as one-of-a-kind repertoire you’ll be sure to enjoy and find useful. Why not invite some of your choir members to join you for this special event? The more, the merrier—and a great way to let that evening’s choral sound bloom as March makes its leonine entry!

On either Monday, **January 3, 2011**, Monday, **March 7, 2011**, or Monday, **April 4, 2011**, we would like to show two (either back-to-back or simultaneously) of the AGO masterclass DVDs saluting two of our profession’s iconic women: Catharine Crozier and Marie-Claire Alain. If you have something as simple as a TV with a DVD or something snazzier **and someone who knows how to operate said equipment**, we’d love to come to your church.

As far as the pot-luck is concerned, the Sensational Sinda Dux will coordinate that with you! But why stop there? Would you like to invite us to your home that evening for the pot-luck and program? We’ll help with the dishes! Please consider offering the hospitality of your church or home for one of these meetings. It will be an enormous help and a lot of fun, to boot!

### Why not host an AGO meeting during 2010-2011?

Have you ever thought “Nobody would be interested in the organ at my church” or “My church isn’t snazzy enough for an AGO meeting”? But do you have an LCD projector and screen for a Powerpoint presentation or maybe the means for showing a DVD (or two) at your church? More importantly, do you or someone at your church actually know how to run that equipment? We have two meetings planned for next season (no organ required!) for which we could use your help as a



### Next

**AGO—Lincoln Chapter**  
**Board Meeting**  
**March 8, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**

### Membership Changes :

**Donald Freed ~**  
Sul Ross State University

**Sinda Dux ~**  
Delete work phone number

## Lincoln Organ Showcase cont... Aaron David Miller, Organist

Miller, a renowned performer and improviser, will present a program including works by J.S. Bach, Benoit, and Farnam, as well as an extended improvisation on submitted themes. Prize winner of several prestigious competitions, including the top prize at the AGO National Improvisation Competition, and the Bach and Improvisation prizes at the Calgary International Organ Festival Competition, Miller is in constant demand as a recitalist. His repertoire spans all periods but he is particularly noted for his stylish performances of Johann Sebastian Bach and his imaginative and

highly original improvisations. His first solo compact disc, showcasing his performances of Bach and his improvisatory skills, has been released on the Dulcian label. Featured prominently at the AGO National Convention in Chicago in 2006, Dr. Miller’s new work for organ and orchestra, “Sleepy Hollow”, was premiered at the opening concert in Symphony Hall. Dr. Miller is the Director of Music and Organist at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota.

## Wednesday at Noon Lenten Organ Recitals

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WHAT: Wednesday at Noon Lenten Organ Recital Series

WHERE: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa

WHEN 12:10 Noon

WHO:

March 3: James Lytton, ChM, Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln, Ne.

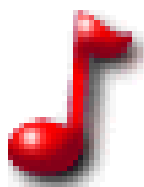
March 10: Barbara Frember, Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, Omaha, Ne.

March 17: Charles Cohen, Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Omaha, Ne.

March 24: Claire Bushong, Sinai Lutheran Church, Fremont, Ne.

Free of charge. Complimentary box lunch provided.

Information: (712) 322-4729. e-mail: [mrc@chase3000.com](mailto:mrc@chase3000.com)



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[www.agolincoln.org](http://www.agolincoln.org)

### Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate:

Dean ~ James L. Lytton, ChM

Sub-Dean ~ Jim Hejduk

Secretary ~ Sinda Dux

Treasurer ~ Paul Lytle

Board members expiring in 2013:

J. Gordon Christensen, SPC, CAGO, AAGO

Darrell Fluehr

The election will take place later in the spring. Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five (5) members of the Chapter in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary within thirty (30) days of the announcement of the slate to the Chapter membership.

The Nominating Committee Director is Sara Schott and the members are Denise Makinson, Mark Miller and Tom Trenney.

Please contact the Secretary, Sinda Dux, 742-5032, [duxs2001@yahoo.com](mailto:duxs2001@yahoo.com) or the Dean, Jim Lytton 421-0975, [jlytton@gmail.com](mailto:jlytton@gmail.com) for further information

### Upcoming Events:

**March 1, 2010 ~ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lincoln AGO Chapter**  
Choral Workshop  
Kurt Von Kampen, Clinician  
Grace Lutheran Church  
2225 Washington St.  
Lincoln, Ne.

**March 6, 2010 ~ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lincoln Organ Showcase**  
Aaron David Miller, Organist  
Concordia University  
Seward, Ne.

**March 20, 2010 ~ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Abendmusik: Lincoln Luther College Orchestra**  
First Plymouth Church  
20<sup>th</sup> and D Streets  
Lincoln, Ne.

**March 21, 2010 ~ 3:00 p.m.**  
**Bach Birthday Celebration**  
**St. Cecilia Cathedral**  
**Marie Rubis Bauer, Organist**  
St. Cecilia Cathedral  
701 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Omaha, Ne.

**April 18, 2010 ~ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Abendmusik: Lincoln Brahms Requiem**  
Abendmusik Chorus,  
University Singers &  
Abendmusik Orchestra  
First Plymouth Church  
20<sup>th</sup> and D Streets  
Lincoln, Ne.

**April 25, 2010 ~ 3:00 p.m.**  
Joint Lincoln ~ Omaha AGO Meeting  
Francisco Cera, Organist  
St. Cecilia Cathedral  
701 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St.  
Omaha, Ne.

## Making plans for next summer? Here's what we have planned for you!

The Web site for the 2010 AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C., July 4–8, is ready for you to explore what has already been called the “THE hottest National Convention in a long time.” You'll get all the information you need to convince you this is THE National Convention to attend.

To see an overview of the convention, go to [www.AGO2010.org](http://www.AGO2010.org) and click on the [SCHEDULE](#) menu where you will find **CONVENTION AT A GLANCE** with links to every performer, venue and workshop. You will find it so easy to get around our Web site.

You also can click on the [CONVENTION DETAILS](#) menu where you can find the full list of **Performers** and see their programs. Under the same menu, browse through the **74 Workshops** and glance through the workshop descriptions and the bios of the presenters. You can also read about the **8 Commissioned Composers** and the descriptions of their pieces. Look at the descriptions of the **8 Worship Services** to see what is offered. Click on **Venues** and glance at the pictures of all **25 Organs** used and peek at their specifications. Every performer has a link to their venue and every venue has a link to all its performers—a seamless and logical connection from one Web page to another.

Under the [REGISTRATION](#) menu, you can register for the convention and the Marriott convention hotel. When you register for the convention, use the links (as mentioned above) to make your choices.

Payment by credit card is simple and safe. If your church is paying for your convention expenses, we suggest you register online, pay by credit card and submit the bill and a copy of your confirmation receipt to the church for reimbursement—much easier for everyone!

Want information about airports/train/driving, DC Metro, or tourist information? You can find it under the [DESTINATION & DIRECTIONS](#) menu.

Would you like to see who is exhibiting/ advertising or want to purchase a business card ad in the program book? Check under the [ADVERTISE/EXHIBIT/SPONSOR](#) menu.

Thinking of arriving early or staying late? We have a list of our pre- and post-convention offerings under the [SCHEDULE](#) menu.

Know a non-member who may attend? They will receive a year's membership included with their registration fee. Wish you could read about AGO 2010 in a brochure? Watch for a full-color brochure arriving soon in every AGO member's mailbox.

Need other information or have questions? Browse through our Web site and if you don't find the answer, click on [CONTACT US](#) and members of the 2010 steering committee will be happy to answer your question.

We look forward to seeing you next summer!

**Ronald Stolk**

Convention Coordinator  
[coordinator@ago2010.org](mailto:coordinator@ago2010.org)



### A note from the Editor:

Greetings to the AGO ~ Lincoln Chapter!

First, I would like to thank you for the wonderful comments on the newsletter. If you would like to see any changes, please let me know.

I have had an idea, only slightly stolen from Sub-Dean, Jim Hejduk, I would like to feature your church organ in the newsletter. Just send me a picture of your organ, with a brief history and it will be included in the newsletter. You can even be in the picture if you want! And I promise that St. Paul's Lutheran Church will not be the first organ featured, unless of course no one sends me anything!

Just a reminder the next newsletter deadline is: March 15<sup>th</sup>

Until then try to stay warm and remember SPRING is really on it's way!

In His Service and Yours,

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