

Chiff Chat

May ~ June 2010

Volume 80 No. 5

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:

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Newsletter Editor:

Rosemary Paul

A Note From the Dean:

YouTube

Do you YouTube? It can be an example of too many people not having enough to do. But there is a large amount of organ and choral music out there with some very good performances. Someone is putting a lot of English choral music up with the score so you can follow along as the music plays. Several members of my choir like this feature. My biggest complaint is that they rarely identify the composer or the performer. There are some spectacular cuts from the rededication of the organ at St. John the Divine in New York City (with some wonderful improvisations). There is a cut of Alec Wyton playing his Fanfare on that organ (for which he wrote the Fanfare). The complete wedding ceremony of Prince Edward is there (in eight cuts). There are lots of cuts of the Widor Toccata and the Bach d minor.

But what does that have to do with us, the ones called to our profession? I can find some good performances of the choral literature or I can compare the various performances. (FYI I will not listen to a work as the choir and I are learning it. And I will not listen to an organ work until I have learned it). Some of the performances are very inspiring and that is important. If we do not have these positive inputs, we can become stale. Likewise with a recital or concert. I know that some of that stuff finds it way to the back of my brain and helps when I need an inspiration to keep going. All of these things are important and YouTube can be another source of inspiration.

The year is running down quickly. Chapter programs remaining are the program in Omaha, the May program at Mark Miller's church to experience the Phoenix organ,

and a picnic at Roger Bailey's home in McCool Junction. Plus LOS at Saint Paul UMC in May (Jean-Baptiste Robin). And if this reaches you in time, don't miss Michael Emmerich's senior recital on April 20. And our Sub-Dean, Jim Hejduk, has another wonderful series of programs for next year. Stay tuned!



Jim Lytton, ChM—Dean

Lincoln Organ Showcase



Sunday, May 2, 2010 -- 3:00 p.m.
Jean-Baptiste Robin, Organist
Poitiers, France
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Chiff Chat

A Note from the Sub-Dean ~ Jim Hejduk

A Note from the Editor:

Hi Everyone!

I would like to thank all of those who wished me a good trip to Germany in May. I'm starting to get excited about going! I hope you have been pleased with your newsletter and am looking forward to working on the upcoming issues. Have a good summer!

In His Service,

Rosemary

Pot Luck Picnic

June 13, 2010

At the home of

Roger Bailey

1819 Road S
McCool, Junction, Ne.

There will be opportunity to play the organ in Roger's home.



**Monday, May 3rd,
First Christian Church, 430 S. 16th St. (at K St.)
6 pm, Pot-Luck Dinner;
7 pm, First Christian's Phoenix Organ
There is adequate off-street parking behind
the church. All doors will be unlocked.**

Mark Miller, First Christian's Director of Music, will demonstrate the church's Phoenix organ. Mark will first explain First Christian's selection process resulting in the purchase of this instrument with its particularly English style and sound and then give a brief overview of the pipe sampling process.

The primary (English) specification consists of pipe samples from notable Harrison & Harrison (1913, 1921, 1982) and Willis (1914) instruments. The secondary (French) specification includes a number of stops sampled from the 1875 Cavaille-Coll organ in Parr Hall in Warrington, England. The third specification includes digitally sampled instruments (strings, brass, and percussion) in addition to traditional organ stops. Mark will demonstrate specific stops and choruses and play a few representative pieces. And then, it'll be yours! Feel free to ask questions and try out the organ yourself.

**Sunday, June 13, AGO Meeting and Pot-Luck Picnic, Home of Roger Bailey,
1819 Road 5 (that's FIVE, not "ess")
McCool Junction, NE beginning at 3 pm**

From Lincoln, take I-80 west to Exit 360 (Waco). At the top of the ramp, turn **left (south)** (N.B. Turning right will not take you to Baylor University; if you find yourself at the York exit on I-80, you've gone one exit too far). You will notice the county road numbers descend at roughly 1 mile intervals. Turn **right** onto Road 5 (well-graded dirt) and proceed about a mile until you see an out-cropping of windmills on your left. You'll soon see the gated entrance to 1819 Road 5 on your left. Follow the driveway as it crosses the bridge, passes the hangar on your left, and continue winding up the hill to Roger's home. Pass the home on your left where you'll find adequate field parking opposite the front door (and sweeping vistas all around).

Roger Bailey not only owns the world's largest private collection of antique, rare, and one-of-a-kind windmills, but also is the proud owner of a Casavant organ dating from the early 1930's which is strikingly installed in the balcony of his music room. The organ was originally installed in a hospital chapel in St. Jeans, Quebec, south of Montreal and was played by Sister Marie Desire until its removal in 1985. Roger, an organ enthusiast, purchased the instrument in 1992 and hauled it to its current home in a car trailer.

An 8' principal was added in 1996 and five more ranks of pipes were added just this past year. The organ operates on 3 3/4" of wind pressure and consists of 15 ranks of pipes (859 pipes). Recent recitalists on this instrument have included our own Dr. J. Gordon Christensen and Michael Emmerich. Bring your picnic favorites. Cold items will probably fare best. We'll have further housekeeping details available for you as the date draws nigh. This will be a wonderful way to end our season of programming. Please join us for a lovely afternoon!

Why not host an AGO Meeting during 2010-2011?

C'mon folks! I'm tired of beating this dead horse! We have two meetings planned for next season (no organ required!) for which we could use your help as a "techno-host." **Monday, September 13, 2010**, Mary Eileen Andreassen will conduct a workshop on "Spirituality for Church Musicians" and will augment her presentation with a PowerPoint presentation requiring an LCD projector and screen. On either **Monday, January 3, 2011, Monday, March 7, 2011, or Monday, April 4, 2011** we'd like to show two (either back-to-back or simultaneously) of the AGO master class DVDs saluting two of our profession's iconic women: Catherarin Crozier and Marie Claire Alain. Sinda Dux will coordinate pot-lucks. Please consider offering the hospitality of your church or home. Contact me at hejduk1@windstream.net or call (402) 742-9017 as soon as possible. Thanks very much!

ABENDCHOR: announcing auditions for a new professional choir!

ABENDCHOR, a dynamic new choral ensemble based in Lincoln, Nebraska, is gathering a collection of professional choral singers from near and far who will come together to share an intensive, week-long preparation and performance. During the 2010-11 season, singers may audition for any or all of these ABENDCHOR weeks: September 5-12: a program of evening music, including selections from Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil*; October 17-22: Vaughn Williams' *Flos campi* and *Serenade to Music* with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra; April 16-22: Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion*. Local singers will be offered a fee for each project for which they are hired; singers from out of town will be offered a fee, including support for travel expenses, and lodging. Auditions for ABENDCHOR will be held on Sunday, May 2 (4:00~7:00 p.m.) and Monday, May 3 (7:00~9:00 p.m.) at First-Plymouth Church, 2000 D Street, Lincoln, NE. Additional audition times can be scheduled on-site in Lincoln at the choral artist's convenience anytime before June, 15, 2010, when co-artistic directors Therees Hibbard and Tom Trenney are available. Auditions on CD will also be considered for those singers from out of town. For the audition, please sing a solo of your choice in any style, and prepare the provided choral excerpts that will be sent to you when your audition is scheduled. Please also send a resume of your choral experience. Contact Tom Trenney at Abendmusik: 2000D Street, Lincoln, NE 68502, tomtrenney@gmail.com, or (402) 47609933 ext. 222, to schedule an audition or for more information about ABENDCHOR.



Upcoming Events:

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

May 2, 2010 ~ 3:00 p.m.
Lincoln Organ Showcase
Jean-Baptiste Robin, Organist
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M Street
Lincoln, Ne.

May 3, 2010
Lincoln AGO Chapter
6:00 p.m. ~ Potluck
7:00 p.m. ~ Program
The Phoenix Electric Organ
Mark Miller, Organist
First Congregational Church
430 South 16th Street
Lincoln, Ne.



May 10, 2010 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Abendmusik: Lincoln Chanticleer
First-Plymouth Church
20th & D Streets
Lincoln, Ne.

June 13, 2010
Lincoln AGO Chapter Pot Luck Picnic
At the home of
Roger Bailey
1819 Road S
McCool, Junction, Ne.

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Chiff Chat - April 2010

www.agolincoln.org

Lincoln Organ Showcase ~ Jean-Baptiste Robin

Jean-Baptiste Robin studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris where he received seven Premier Prix diplomas (organ, harmony, counterpoint, 16th Century composition, 20th century composition, orchestration, Basso continuo) and two postgraduate diplomas with honours, in theory and in organ performance.

He studied organ with Marie-Claire Alain (two years in the CNR Supérieur de Paris), Olivier Latry, Michel Bouvard (Paris) and Louis Robilliard (Lyon). He also studied composition with Marc-Andre Dalbavie and George Benjamin at King's College, London.

While still only twenty-three, and after a competitive selection examination, Jean-Baptiste Robin was appointed to the prestigious post of organist of the Cathedral of St Peter in Poitiers. This instrument, made by Francois-Henri Clicquot, is certainly of the most famous French historic organ. He is also professor of Organ at the Conservatoire National de Région de Versailles.

Jean-Baptiste Robin has now a career as an organist and a composer. As an organist he has given recitals at numerous countries in Europe, in USA and in Japan. In Europe he has performed in international organ festivals in Europe: Toulouse-les-orgues, Roquevaire, Masevaux, Organ festival in Haarlem, Silbermann festival in Freiberg, Mendelssohn festival in Coblenz, Saint-Bertrand de Comminges, Saint-Riquier, Monaco, Internationaler Orgelfestival im Schloss, Internationaler Orgelsommer in Potsdam-Sans Souci and has given recitals on many famous instruments, including those of Notre-Dame de Paris, the Chapel Royal in Versailles and the Royal Festival Hall in London, etc.

He has given master classes on French organ music for the American Guild of Organists, at the International Summer Academy in Haarlem (Holland), the Sapporo Organ Academy (JP), the Hochschule of Tübingen and Rottenburg (Germany), Conservatory of Music of Cincinnati and each year at the Academy in la Chaise-Dieu and the Poitiers Summer Academy.

His recordings, which include the complete works of Felix Mendelssohn, Louis Marchand (Triton label) and François Couperin (published by Naxos), have been hailed by the specialised press and awarded highest distinctions in France (Golden Diapason of the Year, Choc by the Monde de la Musique, Recommandé by Classica and Répertoire).

Jean-Baptiste Robin is the composer of some fifteen pieces ranging from solo instrument to symphony orchestra, and was a prize-winner of the Lagardere Foundation and Institut des Beaux-Arts. His pieces were performed in Europe and Japan and were commissioned by the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Radio France (for the Maîtrise), and the Orchestre National de Lyon. He was awarded the François Prize in Roubaix, and won the Composition Competition of the City of Nice, the Grand Prix of the City of Bordeaux and the Audience Prize at the Dom Bedos Composition Competition.

In 2009 two new releases will appear: the Organ works by Jean-Baptiste Robin on two great Parisian organs (label Naxos) and the complete recording of Jehan Alain music (label Brilliant Classics). In 2010 Jean-Baptiste Robin will have a first premiere by Pierre Boulez who will conduct l'Ensemble intercontemporain in Salle Pleyel/Paris (commission from Ensemble intercontemporain).

George Ritchie
2-CD Recording
Of
J.S. Bach's
Art of Fugue

A boxed set containing a 2-CD recording by organist George Ritchie of J.S. Bach's complete *Art of Fugue* and two films on DVD--a full-length documentary film about the *Art of Fugue* and a filmed lecture-demonstration by George Ritchie on the 17 individual pieces-- has just been released by Fugue State Films of Great Britain. The *Art of Fugue*, written at the end of Bach's life, is one of the greatest achievements of the human mind and a perfect blend of intellectual and emotional expression.

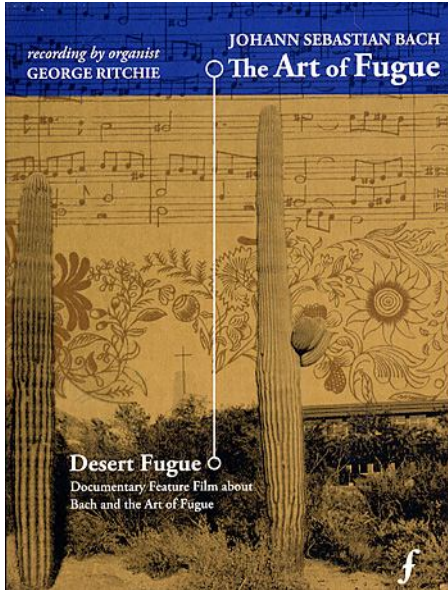
The first film on the DVD, the 90-minute documentary *Desert Fugue*, features Bach scholar Christoph Wolff. He describes Bach's composition of two versions of the *Art of Fugue*, demonstrates how the subject works, and offers the hypothesis that Bach actually did finish the famously incomplete final fugue, but that the ending has been lost.

In the second film on the DVD, George Ritchie's 111-minute lecture-demonstration introduces each of the pieces in the *Art of Fugue*, illustrating points with many examples from the score, and discusses the full range of fugal techniques used in the work.

The documentary *Desert Fugue* comprises three sections. George Ritchie addresses performance of the *Art of Fugue* on the organ and Christoph Wolff is the major voice in presenting the work's history and its place in Bach's legacy. Ralph Richards and Bruce Fowkes, the builders of the organ at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona where the recording was made, join Ritchie in discussing their creation of the 3-manual instrument, in 2006, as inspired by 18th-century Central German organs and their builders known to Bach.

A booklet contains extensive notes by George Ritchie about the music, specifications of the organ, and a list of all registrations used. The two CDs include, in addition to the *Art of Fugue*, several late organ works by Bach. The production was conceived and produced by Will Fraser and Simon Still of Fugue State Films.

The CD plus DVD boxed set is available in the U.S from www.ohscatalog.org, from www.RavenCD.com, and from Fugue State Films www.fuguestatefilms.co.uk/shop.



Soli Deo Gloria



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James Lytton, ChM
AGO—Lincoln Chapter
6641 S. 57th Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68516