

Chiff Chat

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



May 2011

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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

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Dean's Column

I enjoy reading our national magazine, *The American Organist*. I try to read each issue, looking for new ideas for programs and finding out about various people in our profession, among other things. So I was pleased to see a new issue in my mailbox today.

The most striking thing to me was the article about Peter Gomes and his legacy especially to the organ and church music world. This is what Dr. Gomes said about our profession: "Thus to our profession belong such words as reverence, awe, majesty, beauty, and inspiration: those are our words, and understanding what they mean suggests that we understand that we too are holy, as the one who calls us is holy, and that the work we perform is holy." Most of us believe that our work is a calling and these words from Dr. Gomes support that. But, take the time to read the words from our current chaplain, Thomas Troeger, on the opposite page. He is talking about being centered on the job at hand, but he uses Anton Bruckner as an example and points out that Bruckner attempts to reclaim the lost spirituality in the world. When I read these two articles, I was struck by the fact that there really is a connection that that they do support each other. Check out these two articles.

Also in this issue, Eileen Gunther, our national president, writes that people in some chapters are made to feel unwelcome at meetings. I have heard this before, but I hope that it does not apply to the Lincoln chapter. I do try to welcome everyone to our meetings, especially people that I do not know. I hope that if anyone has felt unwelcome at one of our meetings that they would please let me know. Dr. Gunther quotes from the Guild's mission statement: "we are called...to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members." One of the ways that we can provide this support is to attend programs in the various churches. I am often surprised at how few of our members turn out for programs in other churches and schools. Many of these are quite instructive and quite good. Last Sunday, I attended the senior recital of Aaron Kortze at Concordia. A wonderful recital and it made for a wonderful

afternoon (and yes, I know that it was on Palm Sunday after many of us have longer services).

If I were not involved at the chapter level, I would still maintain my membership in the Guild just so that I can receive *The American Organist*, one of the finest journals that is out there and one that I enjoy reading.

On May 15 we have our final meeting of the year to hear music of Vierne at Saint Paul United Methodist Church. The program has been put together by Jim Hejduk and John Friesen and features the Vierne *Messe Solennelle* and organ music of Vierne played by our members. Details about the program appear elsewhere in this newsletter. And in June we have the convention in Des Moines. Since it is fairly close, I hope that many folks are planning to attend the convention. I also will be attending the annual conference of the Hymn Society which will be held in Colorado Springs this year in July. I will hopefully have a report from both of these events in the fall.

And on May 20, we will hear Andrew Kotylo, who is a very talented kid, performing at First-Plymouth Church. Among other things he will perform the *Laudes Organi* by Zoltan Kodaly with the Abendmusik Chorus. This is the next to last Lincoln Organ Showcase program for the year. Vidas Pinkevicius will present the fifth and final concert at Grace Lutheran Church in June.

I also am doing something that makes me feel old: attending my 50th high school reunion. I remember my father attending some of his high school reunions and coming back and saying that he did not realize that there were so many old people in his class! Our reunion takes place in Kansas City the same weekend as our Vierne program with a luncheon at the Kansas City Country Club and dinner at the Mission Hills Country Club. But fear not, I will drive back on Sunday morning in order to attend the program at 3:00 pm on the 15th. Hope to see you there.

James J. Lytton, ChM
Dean



A Note from the Sub-Dean ~ Jim Hejduk

THE POWER of the VOICE, THE MAJESTY of the ORGAN

A Joint Concert by the Lincoln Civic Choir

and the Lincoln Chapter of the

American Guild of Organists

Sunday, May 15, 2011, 3:00 pm

St. Paul United Methodist Church

1144 M Street, Lincoln

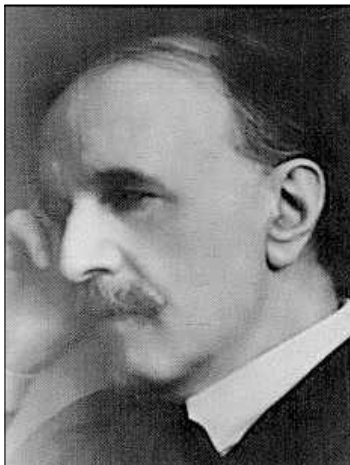


Our May program, to which our colleagues from the Omaha Chapter have been invited, will be a special collaborative venture as we join forces with the Lincoln Civic Choir, Dr. William A. Wyman, conductor, to present a unique choral and organ concert. Highlighting this concert will be the rarely heard *Messe Solennelle* by Louis Vierne accompanied on St. Paul's magnificent Bedient organ by chapter member Dick Morris.

To complement the Vierne Mass, seven of our AGO members – Claire Eason, Jessica Freeman, Charles Cohen, Tom Trenney, Stacie Lightner, Christopher Marks, and Charles Ore – will play solo organ selections by Vierne from the *24 Pièces en Style Libre*, the *Pièces de Fantaisie* and the *Deuxième Symphonie*.

Supplementing the program will be the *Missa Brevis* by George Manos plus an appearance by the Lincoln Home School Choir under the direction of John Friesen.

Special Admission Pricing! If you are a current dues-paying member of the Lincoln Chapter of the AGO or a dual member of the Lincoln and Omaha Chapters, you will be able to purchase **half-price** tickets the day of the concert. Simply present yourself at a ticket table at which you'll find Dean Jim Lytton or Sub-Dean Jim Hejduk and you can purchase tickets for \$7.50 for Adults or \$5 for Children ages 12-18. Children under age 12 will be admitted for free. Either of the Jims or another AGO officer on-duty must attest to your membership status in order for you to receive a half-price ticket.



Louis Vierne (1870-1937).

Louis Vierne was born in Poitiers, Vienne, nearly blind due to congenital cataracts, but at an early age was discovered to have an unusual gift for music. (At age two he heard the piano for the first time. The pianist played him a Schubert lullaby and he promptly began to pick out the notes of the lullaby on the piano.)

After completing school in the provinces, Louis Vierne entered the Paris Conservatory. From 1892, Vierne served as an assistant to the organist Charles-Marie Widor at the church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris. Vierne subsequently became principal organist at the cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, a post he held from 1900 until his death in 1937.

Vierne was considered one of the greatest musical improvisers of his generation. His few improvisations that were preserved on early phonograph recordings sound like finished, polished compositions.

He had an elegant, clean style of writing that respected form above all else. His harmonic language was romantically rich, but not as sentimental or theatrical as that of his early mentor César Franck. Of all the great *fin de siècle* French organists, Vierne's music was perhaps the most idiomatic for his chosen instrument and has inspired most

of the great Parisian organist-composers who followed him.

His output for organ includes six symphonies, *24 Fantasy Pieces* (which includes his famous *Carillon de Westminster*), and *24 Pieces in Free Style*, among other works. There are also several chamber works (sonatas for violin and cello, a piano quintet and a string quartet for example), vocal and choral music, and a Symphony in A minor for orchestra.

From: Wikipedia





**Lincoln AGO Chapter
Joint Meeting
Omaha**
May 15, 2011
3:00 pm Program

Lincoln Civic Choir
William Wyman
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M Street, Lincoln
Info: [Jim Hejduk](mailto:Jim.Hejduk@stpmc.org)
(402) 742-9017



Abendmusik:Lincoln
May 20, 2011
7:00 pm

Organ ... Plus

Andrew Kotylo and Friends
First-Plymouth Church
20th & D Streets, Lincoln
Info: [Jeremy Bankson](mailto:Jeremy.Bankson@firstplymouth.org)
(402) 476-9933
[Abendmusik:Lincoln](mailto:Abendmusik@lincoln.org)

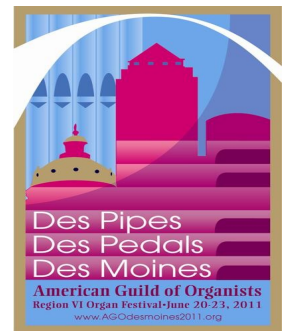
Westminster Handbell Concert
May 23, 2011
7:00 pm
Westminster Choir College Handbell Choir
Grace Lutheran Church
2225 Washington, Lincoln
Info: [Sara Schott](mailto:Sara.Schott@wcc.edu)



Lincoln Organ Showcase
June 11, 2011
3:00 pm

Vidas Pinkevicius, Organist
Grace Lutheran Church
2225 Washington, Lincoln
Info: [Chris Marks](mailto:Chris.Marks@glc.org)
(402) 472-2980

Region VI Convention
June 20 - 23, 2011



Chiff Chat - May 2011

www.agolincoln.org



AGO News You Need to Know...

Pipe Organ Encounter Scholarships – David von Behren and Ana Carlson

Our two scholarships for the Pipe Organ Encounters have been awarded. The first went to David von Behren who is from Falls City and who has just started studying with Tom Trenney. He will attend the POE in Colorado Springs. The second goes to Ana Carlson, who attended our POE Advanced in 2008. She has attended every POE Advanced and will attend her fourth POE Advanced in Boston this summer. Ana is a student of Marie Rubis Bauer. Congratulations to these two talented students!

Going to Des Moines?

If you are going to Des Moines for the Region VI Convention (“Des Pipes, Des Pedals, Des Moines”) and would like to carpool, please let me know and let’s see if we can be a little green in this endeavor. I am actually going to go to Des Moines on Sunday and return on Friday, as there is a banquet on Thursday evening. So let’s see if we can save several gallons of expensive oil by carpooling. Just let me know and I will try to match folks up.

Dues Renewal

The dues renewal form should accompany the newsletter. In preparation for the electronic version that should happen next year, we are omitting the programs because I am reasonably sure that we will not be able to list them on the new form. I do believe that we will be able to sign up for Lincoln Organ Showcase, so we have left that option on place. As far as I know, we are the only chapter that puts upcoming programs on its dues renewal form.

Westminster Concert Bell Choir

The handbell choir from Westminster Choir College is playing in Lincoln on Monday, May 23, at Grace Lutheran Church. Yes, I know that we are not a handbell organization, BUT, we are a church music organization and handbells are part of church music. PLUS I am an alum and have been bugging Cathy to bring them here. It is kind of expensive to do so and we need lots of people to attend. Ticket prices are reasonable. They do travel with eight (yes, 8) octaves. And they rang for the lighting of the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center and got to work with Josh Groban! I do not know who that is but people go gaga when they hear that. So please help support these wonderful kids.

Vote

A ballot has been included with the newsletter. Please vote and send your ballot to Sinda. Thanks!



Friday, May 20, 2011 -- 7:00 p.m. ~ Andrew Kotylo, Organist

Trinity Church On the Green ~ New Haven, Connecticut

First-Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC)

20th & D Streets ~ Lincoln, Nebraska

Andrew Kotylo is a concert organist whose musicality and eclectic repertoire--from transcriptions to Bach--enable him to create exciting, audience-friendly programs. He has concertized throughout the United States and in England, including performances at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists that have earned critical acclaim. He has been twice featured on American Public Media's Pipedreams.

A native of Binghamton, New York, Andy is finishing his doctoral studies in organ performance at the Indiana University School of Music, Bloomington, Indiana, where he has served as an Associate Instructor in music theory. He previously earned the Bachelor (with high distinction) and Master of Music degrees from Indiana in 1999 and 2003, respectively. His teachers have included Carolyn Albaugh, the late M. Searle Wright,

Christopher Young, Larry Smith, and John Schwandt. He is writing his doctoral document on the life and organ works of Searle Wright, and has been assisted in his research by a grant from the American Guild of Organists National Library at Boston University given by the widow of the concert organist, E. Power Biggs.

In June of 2008, Andy was honored with the second prize in the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition, held in Minneapolis. He has also been a first-place winner in several other competitions within the United States, including the Ottumwa (Iowa) Undergraduate Competition, the Arthur Poister National Competition, and the San Marino Competition. He was also a semi-finalist in the 2000 A.G.O. NYACOP (Seattle, Washington) and finalist in the 2005 Jordan International Competition (Columbus, Georgia).

One of Andy's greatest passions is church music, particularly within the context of liturgical worship. In August 2008, he joined the music staff of Trinity Church ("on-the-Green") in New Haven, Connecticut where he is full-time assistant organist/choirmaster under music director Walden Moore. He has also served Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas as organist; St. Paul's Cathedral (Episcopal) in Buffalo, New York as assistant organist/choirmaster; the Church of the Nativity (Episcopal) in Indianapolis, Indiana as music director/organist, and St. Thomas Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Bloomington, Indiana as organist. Andy was the recipient of the 2005 Ruth and Paul Manz Church Music Scholarship, awarded to a musician pursuing a career in sacred music.

Among Andy's many repertoire interests is the organ duo repertoire. He has performed in collaboration with Tom Trenney, and together they made the world première recording of Stephen Paulus's Paeon for Pro Organo. Andy also enjoys teaching and has participated as a faculty member for A.G.O. "Pipe Organ Encounters" in Rochester (Eastman School of Music) and Detroit. He recently finished a two-year term as Dean of the Bloomington chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and currently serves on the board of the New Haven chapter.

"Mr. Kotylo masterfully presented a diverse program much to the delight of the audience, which gave him a standing ovation." (**American Guild of Organists Regional Convention, Binghamton, NY**) --- Paul Elsener - *The American Organist* (Oct 1, 2001)

"Monday morning culminated in a recital by regional competition winner Andrew Kotylo...It was obvious to all who heard him that he is destined for a fulfilling career." (**American Guild of Organists Regional Convention, Buffalo, NY**) --- David Bond - *The American Organist* (Oct 1, 1997)

Soli Deo Gloria



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