



Chiff Chat

A Newsletter of the Lincoln Chapter—American Guild of Organists

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November/December 2004

From the Dean . . .

Many thanks to the students who performed on the October Area Student Recital at First Presbyterian Church. This was an excellent recital given by students from Concordia and UNL. The fine talent of these young people gives me much hope for the future! Also thanks to Carolyn Schroeder and her daughter Carla for the nice reception afterwards.

Coming up is our next meeting at St. Paul United Methodist Church on Saturday November 20 at 10 am. Lincoln Symphony conductor Ed Polochick will discuss various concepts of performance, including organ with orchestra, and other issues based on his wide experience. This should be an interesting morning and will include a round table discussion, so bring your questions.

In the recent issue of TAO you will find an envelope for the AGO Annual Fund. Why is this important? This fund is vitally important for all of us as it provides not only funds for programs, but statistics

Next Chapter Meeting! Saturday, November 20, 10 a.m. St. Paul United Methodist Church 11th and M Streets

Ed Polochick, conductor of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, will give a talk on his experiences with organ and orchestra and performance in general. Bring your questions, as there will be a round-table discussion!

for grants. Many grants require information of numbers who have contributed to this fund, which results in larger grants being awarded because of larger percentage of contributions! Even if you send in one dollar you are helping in a huge way to provide grants for all sorts of needs from conferences to competitions, etc. If you have lost your envelope, simply make out your check to "AGO Annual Fund" and send it to "AGO Annual Fund, American Guild of Organists, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115-1260."

As we begin to put energies towards the upcoming feast of Thanksgiving let us give some thought to the many blessings in our lives and daily give thanks. Remembering those less fortunate, we can help through donations to food pantries and churches that have food collection programs.

Happy Thanksgiving!

— Gerald Holbrook, Chapter Dean

Lincoln Organ Showcase to Present Two Concerts this Spring

Lincoln Organ Showcase has completed a fall schedule of three varied programs: a concert of music for duo organ and organ and strings at First Christian Church, a concert featuring a Bedient organ, a cembalo cromatico and a lute harpsichord at St. Mark's-on-the-Campus, and Diane Bish at First Presbyterian. There are two wonderful concert left on the series, please join us for them!

February 6: Christopher Herrick, Organ — Internationally acclaimed concert organist Christopher Herrick will put the Westminster Presbyterian Casavant through its paces. Herrick is a former organist at Westminster Abbey. 3:30 p.m., 2110 Sheridan Boulevard.

April 10: Erik Wm. Suter, Organ — Grace Lutheran will host Mr. Suter, Organist at Washington National Cathedral. Suter played for the state funeral of Ronald Reagan this past June. He will also present a workshop for area organists on April 9 — watch for more information! 7:30 p.m., 2225 Washington Street.

Door tickets are \$10 regular admission, \$7 for seniors and students.

Upcoming Chapter Programs

November 20: Lecture by Ed Polochick, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Conductor.

January 10: 7:30 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, lecture by Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner on European organs.

January 15: 8:30 a.m. to noon, Omaha chapter Mid-winter Workshop with Wayne Leopold "Teaching Beginning Organ to Children and Adults" Trinity Lutheran Church, 6340 N. 30th, Omaha. Developing more organists is a very important issue — please consider attending this workshop!

February 19: Competition for Young Organists, St. Paul Methodist Church

February 27: 7:30 pm at First-Plymouth Church, Bach/Schweitzer program featuring Bach specialist Elinor Barber, and guest organists. This is a fund raising concert for Lincoln Chapter!

March 12: 10 a.m. Northeast United Church of Christ, 6200 Adams, Gerald Holbrook presents a Gregorian Chant workshop.

April 14-15: American Liszt Society Festival. On the 15th, Gerald Holbrook (our dean!) will present a lecture at 2:30 at Kimball Recital Hall, and the AGO Chapter will provide refreshments at 3:15.

May 9: 7:30 pm at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Members Recital.

With Sympathy . . .

The Lincoln Chapter would like to express its sincerest sympathy to Board Member Willa Foster Jones at the death of her brother from cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with Willa and her family at this difficult time.

**Sacred Music Reading Session
featuring John Leavitt**

**Choral and Keyboard Music by Various Composers
November 20, 2004 2 p.m.
Southwood Lutheran Church, 5511 S. 27th Street, Lincoln**

John Leavitt is a well-known composer, conductor, and teacher who has served as clinician and conductor of concerts, festivals, and workshops throughout North America. He serves as Director of Music at Newman University in Wichita, Kansas. For more information on Dr. Leavitt, see his website at www.johnleavittmusic.com Contact Denise Witfoth Makinson at 488-1310 or 423-5511 with any questions.

Report From a Pedagogy Conference . . .

North Texas State University and the Denton, Texas AGO chapter sponsored a spectacular national conference on organ pedagogy (November 4-6) with "Celebrating the French Classical Organ and its Music" as the focus. The conference featured the Bedient IV/41 French Classic Organ originally built for St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1986 and acquired by the University in 2003. This was an intense, exciting and fascinating three day immersion into the world of the French Classical Organ.

Papers and lectures were given by top figures in the field (Marie-Claire Alain, Robert Bates, Gene Bedient, Joseph Butler, Jesse Eschbach, David Fuller, Robert Gallagher, Elisabeth Gallat-Morin, Stephen Hefling, Marie-Christine Koop, Lenora McCroskey, Davitt Moroney, Lyle Nordstrom, and Catherine Turocy), covering topics from Cultural, Social, Political History, to Registration, Chant studies, Louis Couperin, New France, Reconstructing the French Classical Organ, Rhythmic Alteration in French Baroque Music, Dance in Music of the Grand Siècle, Editions and Graded Repertoire, etc. etc. Recitals were given by Marie-Claire Alain, Michel Bouvard, Jesse Eschbach, Lenora McCroskey, Dale Peters, and the UNT Baroque Ensembles directed by Lyle Nordstrom.

– Report submitted by Gerald Holbrook

Inspire Your Choirs!

Last week, the National Lutheran Choir presented a concert at Grace Lutheran. The choir needed dinner, so I asked my youth choir to serve it. In exchange, they got free tickets to the concert. Those kids are still talking about the music they heard that night! The NLC was wonderful, and our youth choir got to hear some of the great church music performed by an inspired, talented bunch of singers. We had the best rehearsal this week – they were so focused and wanted to do well. I'd encourage any of you who work with kids (it probably wouldn't hurt adults, either) to get them out to quality concerts as a group. It can really motivate and inspire your singers, and may help them nurture a lifelong appreciation of fine church music. Next on the list for our youth choir: the Moscow Boys Choir at First Plymouth on November 21. They can't wait!

– Sara Schott, Director of Music, Grace Lutheran Church

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Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 20: Chapter meeting, See page 1.

Tuesday, November 30: Gerald Holbrook, Doctoral Organ Recital, 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone Church, 640 N. 16th. Music by Couperin, Lubeck, Tite-louse, and Buxtehude. Two of the works will be performed in alternatim with a chant choir.

Thursday, December 2: Vidas Pinkevicius, Doctoral Organ Recital, 5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 840 S. 17th. Music by Reger, Schroeder, Liszt.

Friday, December 3: Ausra Motuzaitė-Pinkeviciene, Lecture Recital, 5 p.m. Cornerstone Church, 640 N. 16th. Music of Reincken

From our Chapter Historian . . .

The historical records of the Lincoln AGO chapter include Treasurer's books from 1938-1945 and from 1963-1965.

- In 1938 dues were \$3. Dues to the National Treasurer for 15 members **totaled** \$29.25. Some disbursements were 50 cents to the University Club for one lunch, 15 cents for napkins for a Hugh Porter reception, and \$1 to Mrs. Michael for working in the kitchen.
- In 1945 dues were still only \$3. Listed as a disbursement was a dinner at the YWCA for 65 cents.
- In 1965 dues had risen to \$10 and \$4.50 of that went to the National Treasurer.

-Sinda Dux, Lincoln Chapter Historian

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