

From the Dean

by Charles W. Ore

THE TRAINING OF CHURCH MUSICIANS AND THE MARKET PLACE — PART II

For purposes of this article, "Market Place" is defined by the listing of positions available in the September issue of TAO. In the past month I have been interviewing organ teachers face-to-face and via telephone conversations, as well as checking out organ programs in colleges and universities throughout the United States, as they are presented on the Internet. The question that I was seeking to answer was this, "Are the church musicians of today able to access the training necessary to address the expectations of the market place?"

TAO took three pages to display the many and varied job descriptions found in "Positions Available." For example: [The candidate] "must exhibit knowledge of sacred music including classical, contemporary, gospel, and blended styles" or [The candidate] "will be a person of faith, highly motivated, and energetic with outstanding musical talent, strong interpersonal/communication skills, and a willingness to work in a team environment to develop and implement new music programs, especially related to children and young adults." I realize that in the "Positions Available" sections there is a tendency to ask for everything and hope to get something. But even so, when "knowledge of sacred music including classical, contemporary, gospel and blended styles" is requested, this is much more than churches even considered 40 years ago. At one time, playing the organ and knowing a little about conducting and vocal production were enough to get started, but now that has changed greatly and my research into the matter of training availability for today's church musicians has been revealing.

Assuming that the majority of church musicians access most of their professional training in colleges and universities, they generally have choices between church-related schools, state and private institutions and Bible colleges. In my survey, the church-related schools that had accredited music programs included some studies in church music at the undergraduate level, while many state schools with an undergraduate program in organ did not offer church music studies

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NOVEMBER AGO MEETING

Monday, November 13 – 7:00 p.m.

Members Recital and Reception

Grace Lutheran Church

2225 Washington, Lincoln

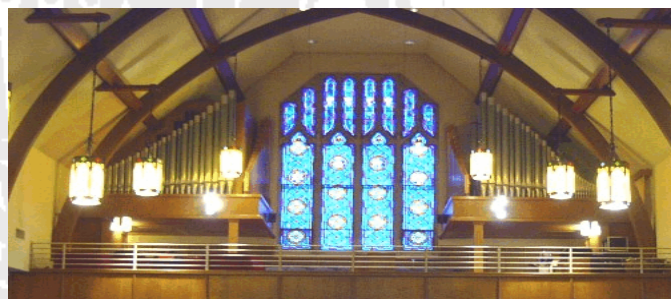
"Members Recital." Sometimes those words are very scary to members of the AGO. Playing for our peers can be a scary situation. But the reality is that you will never perform in a more supportive environment. Chapter members know what it takes to prepare and perform a piece and they are very sympathetic and supportive. So take your favorite piece, polish it up and get ready for our next meeting, which is a members recital.

A members recital is also an opportunity to hear literature that is new to you. I have always found a new piece that I want to learn at every members recital that I have attended.

Grace Lutheran Church is the location for the recital. There is a wonderful Casavant organ in Grace Church. The acoustics in the church are very favorable, and it is a great place for wonderful organ music. The church is located at 2225 Washington, which is one block south of A Street.

Call Sara Schott, the director of music at Grace, at 474.1505 to schedule practice time. Call me (421.0975) or e-mail me (ilytton@att.net) with your selection, so that we may prepare a printed program.

And one of the best benefits: there will be a reception following the program! We also need to have an audience, so even if you are not planning to perform on this recital, please make plans to attend and support your colleagues. See you there! ☐



Grace Lutheran Church, Lincoln — Casavant Pipe Organ



There will be no *Chiff Chat* during the months of December and January. Check the Lincoln Chapter Web site, frequently, for updates to the regional convention: www.agolincoln.org ☐

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beyond the Master and Doctoral levels. Some state schools did not offer studies in church music at all. The church-related schools usually offered components of religion, global music and music written in popular style, including praise band. Surprisingly, some of the Bible colleges that I looked at offered an unaccredited four or five year program in "popular praise band music" which had little in the area of music theory and history, no organ offerings, but rather focused on the latest technology and programming.

With this information before me, I would like to offer these words of wisdom. I think it is a good idea for professors to continually ask themselves the question, "Who will pay the salary of my students five years after their graduation?" While colleges and universities are not trade schools, the reality of the market place speaks loudly and those who teach should read the "Positions Available" listings in their area so they can prepare their students in the best possible way. I always ask incoming students if they need to work following graduation. It's amazing the looks that I get, especially from the parents! The AGO has a vested interest in the training of church musicians as can be seen in the Mission Statement:

"The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote. . . and. . . to educate. . . Guild members."
What can we do to help? More on that subject in Part III.

IN CLOSING: Don't forget to practice, and I hope to see you at the AGO Member Recital at Grace Lutheran Church on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. ☐

Charles



**A program of music for the
king of instruments**

Sundays at 8:30 p.m.
KZUM 89.3 FM

Christopher Marks Faculty Organ Recital

Thursday, January 25, 2007, 7:30 p.m.
Kimball Recital Hall — 11th at R Street
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Dr. Christopher Marks will present his faculty recital in which the music will consist primarily of repertoire for organ and other instruments, performed by additional UNL faculty members.

\$5 general admission, \$3 students/seniors. ☐



"Winds on the Prairie" 2007 Convention Update by Dr. John C. Friesen, Convention Coordinator

I really enjoyed the dinner meeting last night. The food was great and it's always great to meet colleagues I seldom get to see. We also met several new members and there were children present too! Our regional councillor, Janet Kraybill, came all the way from Stillwater, Kansas to bring us enthusiastic greetings and to share with us that attending and participating in conventions can be life-changing.

As a steering committee we presented an over-view of the convention program and also talked about volunteer opportunities for chapter members. Members present were able to sign up for areas of interest. I'm also happy to report that C. Richard (Dick) Morris (recently returned to Lincoln) has agreed to be a member of the steering committee as Coordinator of Volunteers. Thank you, Dick, for taking this important leadership role. You will be hearing from him concerning areas of need to support the running of the festival.

What can you do today and everyday from now until June 18, 2007? Talk, talk, talk. Talk about the festival to your friends and neighbors, your clergy and members of your church and choirs. We want to create a festival spirit in Lincoln so that we can maximize our impact on the community, young and old, and the local church and synagogue for organ music. Each of us can influence the future of the organ by sharing our enthusiasm with those we meet daily. You can also wear a t-shirt with the festival logo on it as a conversation starter. And when press releases are sent to churches, you can help ensure that these are printed in your church newsletter and bulletin. ☐

www.agolincoln.org

See us on the Web!

Blessings to you all.

Your Convention Coordinator,
John



Members will be receiving a brochure and registration form soon. The registration fee reflects an automatic discount of \$25 for Lincoln Chapter members. Volunteers will receive a pair of complimentary tickets to a concert of their choice.

Volunteers Needed for "Winds on the Prairie"

Dear Members of the Lincoln AGO Chapter,
Putting on a convention for the AGO is a reflection of the Lincoln AGO Chapter and the city itself. The chapter needs to put on a good face for our visitors. Running a convention means that we will need lots and lots and lots of volunteers to help in various areas.

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Here are some of the many duties that will need to be done during the convention:

- Bus volunteers
- Registration personnel
- Hotel greeters
- Ushers for the concerts and recitals
- Ticket sellers for concerts and recitals
- Artist chaperones
- Guides to help people find venues and parking
- Volunteers to pass out box lunches
- Bag stuffers

To volunteer, call C. Richard Morris at 261.3104 or e-mail (crichardmo@yahoo.com) and visit with Dick about where best you might fit in. ☐

How Can I Help "Winds on the Prairie?"

The steering committee of the regional convention thanks those who responded to the request in the last *Chiff Chat* for financially supporting "Winds on the Prairie." If you haven't had a chance to send in your tax deductible donation, it's not too late. A \$20 contribution will allow us to offer chapter members a reduced registration fee for the convention and bring a quality event to Lincoln. Any amount, of course, will be welcomed.

Please make your check payable to the Lincoln Chapter AGO and send it to our treasurer, Pamela Penner, CAGO; 5001 West Old Cheney Road; Lincoln NE 68523. Thank you for your support. ☐



Membership Book Update

Please add the following information to C. Richard Morris' entry in the membership book:

H 402.261.3104

crichardmo@yahoo.com ☐



First Friday Noon Concerts

All concerts — 12:10 p.m.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

1244 M Street, Lincoln

NOVEMBER 3 — James Lytton, Organ

DECEMBER 1 — Dr. John C. Friesen, Organ

"The Nutcracker Suite"

JANUARY 5 — Dr. Christopher Marks, Organ ☐

November 5, 2006 — 3:00 p.m.

Marie Rubis Bauer with The Palladium Brass

North American Martyrs Church

1101 Isaac Drive, Lincoln

Marie Rubis Bauer is Director of Cathedral Music

Ministries - Organist at the Cathedral of Saint Cecilia in Omaha, Nebraska. Joining the staff of the Saint Cecilia Schola Cantorum first as Cathedral Organist in 2003, her

responsibilities also include oversight of the Cathedral's seven choirs, cantors, the Archdiocesan Chorale and Choir and instrumentalists, and further forming the musical liturgical life of the Assembly of the Baptized as it gathers to pray.

Rubis Bauer holds

degrees in organ from the University of Kansas (MM, DMA) and Augustana College (BA). She has performed recitals on significant instruments and series throughout the United States and in Europe. She has regularly performed for, presented workshops, and addressed conventions and conferences of national professional organizations of church music and organ.

She has published articles in the area of worship and music and is a contributing author to two books. As organist, conductor, harpsichordist and producer, she is featured on five compact disc recordings. ☐



Marie Rubis Bauer



The Palladium Brass

Pipe Organ Encounter by Matthew Karabel

[Editor's note: It was brought to my attention that one of our student members (age 18) has attended POEs in recent years. Meet Matthew Karabel.]

My Colorado POE experiences for the last two years have been great. Prior to those, I had enjoyed attending a POE in Tacoma, Washington. I have met people of all ages that have the same interests as I do. At school, my friends could not relate to my interest in pipe organs.

During the POEs, we had private organ lessons from an instructor and we worked on a piece that we played at the end of the week at a concert. The instructors were very knowledgeable and I learned a lot. The evening concerts we attended were a learning experience also. There was a theatre organ concert each year, as well.

The best part of all for me was the chance to play a different organ every day. I hope to be able to attend another POE. I heard at the last encounter that they are thinking about extending the age limit to 19 years. I sure hope so, because this winter I turn 19.

The POEs have helped me improve my organ playing skills and the

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Matthew Karabel

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------|---|
| NOVEMBER | 3 | 12:10 p.m. | First Friday Noon Concerts — James Lytton, Organ — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1244 M Street, Lincoln |
| | 5 | 3:00 p.m. | LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE — Marie Rubis Bauer, Organ, with The Palladium Brass — North American Martyrs Church — 1101 Isaac Drive, Lincoln |
| | 5 | 4:00 p.m. | ABENDMUSIK: Lincoln — CANTUS — First-Plymouth Church — 20th at D Street, Lincoln |
| | 13 | 7:00 p.m. | AGO MEETING — Members Recital & Reception — Grace Lutheran Church — 2225 Washington, Lincoln |
| | 19 | 7:30 p.m. | ABENDMUSIK: Lincoln — Salzburg Chamber Soloists — First-Plymouth Church — 20th at D Street, Lincoln |
| | 23 | | HAPPY THANKSGIVING |
| DECEMBER | 1 | 12:10 p.m. | First Friday Noon Concerts — Dr. John C. Friesen, Organ — "The Nutcracker Suite" — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1244 M Street, Lincoln |
| | 10 | 7:30 p.m. | ABENDMUSIK: Lincoln — Handel's Messiah with Abendmusik Chorus, Chamber Orchestra, and Soloists — First-Plymouth Church — 20th at D Street, Lincoln |
| | 10 | 2:30 p.m. MDT | Concert of Advent and Christmas Music – McCook Area Chorus with Zion's Handbell Choir and Junior Choir – Soup and sandwich supper following – Zion Lutheran Church – 1305 Broadway, Imperial (NE) |
| | 25 | | MERRY CHRISTMAS |
| JANUARY | 1 | | HAPPY NEW YEAR |
| | 5 | 12:10 p.m. | First Friday Noon Concerts — Dr. Christopher Marks, Organ — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1244 M Street, Lincoln |
| | 15 | | DEADLINE for February issue of Chiff Chat — Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com |
| | 25 | 7:30 p.m. | UNL Faculty Organ Recital — Dr. Christopher Marks, Organ — Kimball Recital Hall — 11th at R Street, Lincoln |
| | 28 | 7:30 p.m. | ABENDMUSIK: Lincoln — PianoFOURte — First-Plymouth Church — 20th at D Street, Lincoln |
| | 28 | 2:30 p.m. MDT | Concert of Music for Organ and Brass Quintet — Dr. Steven Gustafson and Brass Quintet from McPherson College — Reception following — Zion Lutheran Church — 1305 Broadway, Imperial (NE) |

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congregation at church has enjoyed the pieces I have learned.

I have had piano lessons for 11 years, but no formal organ lessons. We do not have anyone in York that gives organ lessons. I have learned to play organ through some lessons from a former organist at our church. Organ tuners who came to tune the organ at church gave me some tips on organ playing. The rest, I learned myself.

I have wanted to play organs since first grade. We started going to a church with a pipe organ, and I fell

in love with the sounds this massive instrument made.

My goal in life is to start my own church organ building business. To achieve this goal, I am attending Central Community College in Hastings. I am currently enrolled in CAD, drafting, and metal work. I will also be taking courses in woodworking and electronics. I would like to further my education and get my bachelor of music degree at a University.

Next I will attempt to get a job at an organ building company. I am either going to try and get a job at Bedient Organ Company in Roca or at Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence, Kansas. I hope to some day go out on my own and start a company producing instruments for churches, concert halls and other music institutes. □

Lincoln Chapter AGO
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461

