



Chiff Chat

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

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Dinner with Jan Kraybill

Chapter members are invited to join Jan Kraybill for dinner (Dutch treat) on Sunday, **November 1**, at 6:30 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday's at Highway 2 and 56th Street. If you would like to join her for dinner, please call Dick Morris (261-3102) to make a reservation.

From the Dean by James J. Lytton, ChM, Dean

I Told You So

If you missed the recital on October 11, you missed a good one. I try not to say, "I Told You So" in this column but in this case it is true. It was spectacular! My cousin was here from Omaha with my aunt. Jon is not knowledgeable about organ music, but he told me that he could tell how tremendously talented these three guys are. It was a real occasion!



James J. Lytton

So what's next? The primary goal here (other than honoring my mother) was to encourage young people by allowing them to play a recital. Some chapters do program the regional competition winner each year. Some do the "Pedals, Pipes and Pizzas" thing. The PP&P thing is a one-shot deal, in my opinion, when we should be looking at the longer term. In the Washington, DC, area they have the Potomac Organ Institute (which was started when I was dean of the Potomac Chapter). It brings in piano students who audition for spots for a year of free organ lessons. They will take as many students as they have teachers, usually around 5-10 students. What is most interesting about the Potomac Organ Institute is that over 90 percent of the students continue with lessons in the second year, with the students now paying for their lessons.

So what is the long-term with our three students? Well, two of them are in college as organ majors and Bryan (who is 16) is looking at colleges for next year to become an organ major. A step in the right direction. Both Chris and Kevin study with artists who are under management and I would suspect that at least one of the three will eventually be picked up by management, although that can be a little hard to predict.

And what about the Lincoln chapter? Hopefully we will do something similar again next year. But the future of the profession IS in our young people and we do need to be encouraging them. A lot of encouragement certainly was in the air on October 11.

Two back-to-back events in November: Jan Kraybill on Sunday, **November 1**, and then our member's recital on Sunday, **November 2** at a church that we have not used since I have been in Lincoln: Redeemer Lutheran on 33rd Street. The organ sounds very good, especially if you are sitting in the side transept. And we will start with our traditional pot-luck dinner.

I hope to hear many of you on November 2.

As Ye Sow, So Shall Ye Reap by Jim Hejduk, Sub-Dean

Having three alumni from our first-ever Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced of July, 2007 return to Lincoln to play for us was, to my mind, a stroke of genius. The eighteen students that summer were amazingly mature players both technically and musically. The three we were privileged to hear on Sunday, October 11 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church showed even more remarkable growth having taken place in the intervening time.

16-year old Bryan Anderson from Atlanta not only played the Buxtehude *D Major Prelude and Fugue*, Bach's last and longest prelude and fugue (the B Minor), the Vierne *Impromptu* (which I recall Mme. Duruflé playing at First-Plymouth in the pre-Schoenstein days), and two movements from Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* from memory, but he played them with stylistic appropriateness and spot-on registrations. One could only gape in amazement. This wasn't just whiz-kid playing. It bespoke real artistry.

Chris Keenan, a Tennessean who's now a sophomore at Peabody, framed his Bach 2nd Trio Sonata (which he hadn't submitted for the program in that he was unsure if he was ready to play it) with the 1st movement of the Widor 5th Symphony, something we've been privileged to hear Michael Emmerich play several times, and Dupré's *Cortège et Litanie*. Ironically, I found Chris's Bach to be his best piece among the three while hastening to add that all the composers were admirably served, again with remarkable, "I can't believe I'm hearing this" playing.

Kevin Neel, now a sophomore at Indiana University who'd stunned us with his performance of the Final from Vierne's 1st Symphony at the POE-A closing concert (it was like listening to an entirely new piece), opened with an assured performance of the "unfamiliar" Bach G Major (BWV 550). He then played Vierne's *Clair de Lune* with the artistry of an acclaimed singer or violinist, such was his sense of phrasing, pacing, and arching line. He made a brilliant aural case on behalf of the organ being a truly musical instrument and not just a machine. Kevin closed with two of Calvin Hampton's *Five Dances for Organ*. *At the Ballet* abounds with tricky cross rhythms which were handled seamlessly. *The Primitives*, a piece which would cause many players to develop carpal tunnel syndrome in their left hand, was a brilliant finale.

A particularly nice bonus had Bryan and Chris playing Rachmaninoff's *Italian Polka* (with Kevin turning pages) as an organ duo. This was a piece Vivian Lytton herself had played (and in whose memory this concert was presented) and reminded me of Jim Lytton's brother and sister playing a piano duet at Mrs. Lytton's memorial service last spring. We thank the Lytton family for giving us this rare opportunity to hear three young virtuosi about whom each of us will one day say "I knew him when....."

AGO Member's Recital

After a year's absence owing to our IYO schedule, the Members' Recital is back! This is a wonderful opportunity to strut your stuff. Our '07 recital was a great evening for everyone involved – players and listeners alike – and we want to make this an even more stellar event this year. Having sown the seeds with our POE-A kids and reaped the remarkable harvest of their October 11th recital, let's bring in some sheaves of our own in November.

Joseph Herl is our host at Redeemer Lutheran, 510 South 33rd Street (opposite Woods Park) which boasts a nicely navigable mid-sized Reuter which will work for just about anything. Remember folks, we're not looking for big, splashy pieces (though they're fun too) – just something you like, enjoy playing, and think people would enjoy hearing. We heard some delightful examples in '07 that were new "finds" for many of us.

All you have to do is call the church office at 477-1710 to arrange a practice time (weekdays from 8 AM – 4 pm or Saturday mornings). You will need to get a church key from the office which is in the

separate school building behind the church. Please e-mail Jim Hejduk (hejduk1@windstream.net), use "poste escargot" (1860 G St., Apt. B, Lincoln, 68508) or phone him at 742-9017 with your selection and composer. We're hopeful we'll have so many players that only one piece will be required from each participant. If you have two short selections, that's no problem. Any style, any period, the choice is yours! All musical submissions must reach Jim no later than Friday, October 30 so he can prepare the program. He'll be in Baltimore Oct. 31-Nov. 1, and return the day of the recital itself.

FAIR WARNING: If we don't have adequate sign-ups, Jim will play an entire Couperin Mass, demand audience participation in the Gregorian alternatums, and bring his justly reviled rutabaga-parsnip pie to the pot-luck.

Please park in the big parking lot to the north of the church, then come in the double reddish-colored doors on the north side of the church. Turn left and go down the stairs to the lower level kitchen and dining room. All you need to do is bring your container of food. Tableware and drinks will be provided.

First Friday Concert, November 6

First Fridays at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 12th & M Street - November 6 at 12:10 p.m. will feature the duo of Willa Foster Jones and Lily Spader entitled *A Little of Both*, playing original organ duets, piano and organ duets and a solo each (Willa on organ and Lily on piano). Featured composers include Soler, Franck, Vivaldi/Bach, Callahan, Debussy, and P.D.Q. Bach (yes, a first so says concert series organizer, John Friesen)! Willa and Lily are both church musicians at Our Saviour's Lutheran, Lincoln, Nebraska.

With a Cause Recital, November 8

On Sunday, November 8th, Our Saviour's Lutheran will present a Dedicatorial Recital "With a Cause", at 4:00 p.m. - a first recital in what they hope will be many musical events featuring the newly installed Johannus ACVII digital organ. Featured organist will be Chris Nelson, recently with First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and currently the Director of Music Ministries at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa. Chris was formerly the Director of Music at St. John Lutheran Church in Beatrice. A "With a Cause" free-will offering will be received to benefit the Lincoln City Mission Free Health Clinic.

Holiday Handbell Concert

The bell choirs of First Christian and Grace Lutheran Churches will present a concert of Christmas favorites, both sacred and secular, December 13 at 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 16th and K Streets. This is the choirs' 5th annual joint Christmas concert, and it is an event not to be missed. In addition to the bell choirs, the vocal choirs of both churches will combine forces on two stunning pieces: *Winter Solstice Carol* by William Beckstrand, and *O Holy Night* by Brian William Luckner. The Grace Foundation Brass will also perform on the program. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the choirs of both churches.

Are you counting sheep and still can't sleep?
Try counting pipes, and you won't fall asleep fast!
A program of music for the king of instruments.

Sundays at 8:30 p.m. — KZUM 89.3

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room
Sunday, **December 20**, 4:00 p.m.

The Abendmusik Chorus and
The Plymouth Brass

First-Plymouth Church, 2000 D Street

Tickets: Adults - \$20;
Seniors (62 & up) - \$15; Students \$10

For more information or to purchase
tickets call 402-476-9933

So often we race around shopping, ribboning, bowing, decking the halls, practicing for holiday concerts, cleaning up our home for gatherings, that we forget to prepare ourselves for the gift of Christmas. Open your ears to the promise of beloved Advent and Christmas carols from across the ages and glorious music of Bach, Honegger, Mendelssohn, and Rachmaninoff. Join the Abendmusik Chorus and Plymouth Brass with Tom Trenney and Jeremy Bankson as we prepare our hearts for the hope, joy, peace, and love of this holy season.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Soli Deo Gloria! To God be the Glory

Lincoln AGO Chapter Calendar

www.agolincoln.org

Sunday, November 1

- 3:00 p.m. Lincoln Organ Showcase: Jan Kraybill..... First UMC
50th and Saint Paul
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner with Jan Kraybill..... Ruby Tuesday's
(56th and Hwy 2, dutch treat, contact Dick Morris 261-3102)

Monday, November 2

- 6:00 p.m. Lincoln AGO Potluck Supper..... Redeemer Lutheran Church
- 7:00 p.m. Lincoln AGO Member's Recital Redeemer Lutheran Church

Friday, November 6

- 12:10 p.m. First Friday Concert..... Saint Paul United Methodist Church
featuring Willa Foster Jones and Lily Spader

Sunday, November 8

- 4:00 p.m. "With a Cause" Dedicatory Recital Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
featuring Chris Nelson, organist

Monday, November 15

Article deadline for December *Chiff-Chat*

Friday, November 20

- 7:00 p.m. Lincoln Organ Showcase: John Scott Westminster Presbyterian

Friday, December 4

- 12:10 p.m. First Friday Concert..... Saint Paul United Methodist Church
featuring *The Nutcracker Suite* with Dr. John C. Friesen

Sunday, December 13

- 7:00 p.m. Holiday Handbell Concert..... First Christian Church
featuring bell choirs from First Christian and Grace Lutheran Church

Tuesday, December 15

Article deadline for January *Chiff-Chat*

Sunday, December 20

- 4:00 p.m. Abendmusik: Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room..... First-Plymouth
featuring The Abendmusik Chorus and The Plymouth Brass

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Friday, January 1, 2010

Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 4, 2010

- 6:00 p.m. Lincoln AGO Potluck Supper..... First-Plymouth Church
- 7:00 p.m. Lincoln AGO Chapter Organ Workshop First-Plymouth Church
featuring Dr. Christopher Marks

Monday, February 1, 2010

- 6:00 p.m. Lincoln AGO Potluck Supper..... First Presbyterian Church
- 7:00 p.m. Lincoln AGO Chapter Student Recital First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 7, 2010

- 3:00 p.m. Lincoln Organ Showcase: Ahreum Han First Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 19, 2010

- 7:00 p.m. Abendmusik: Lincoln - Brett Valiant..... First-Plymouth Church

Submitting Articles

If you have articles for future editions of Chiff Chat, please address them to Michael Bennett, Publications Editor, Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. If you would prefer to e-mail them, you can send them to (mbennett@SaintPaulUMC.org). Please refer to the calendar for deadlines.

Lincoln Organ Showcase, 2009-2010 Season

Here's another look at the upcoming season of Lincoln Organ Showcase. It promises to be an exciting year of programming.

- *Sunday, **November 1**, 3 p.m., Jan Kraybill, First United Methodist Church, 50th and Saint Paul, Lincoln
- *Friday, **November 20**, 7 p.m., John Scott, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2110 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln
- *Sunday, **February 7**, 2010, 3 p.m., Ahreum Han, First Presbyterian Church, 840 South 17th Street, Lincoln
- *Saturday, **March 6**, 2010, 7 p.m., Aaron David Miller, Concordia University Music Center Recital Hall, 800 N. Columbia, Seward
- *Sunday, **May 2**, 2010, 3 p.m., Jean Baptiste-Robin, Saint Paul UMC, 1144 M Street, Lincoln

Regular season tickets are \$50, senior/student season tickets are \$30 and children under 12 are free! Single tickets to each of the concerts if you buy them separately are \$15 (regular) and \$10 (senior/student) and are available at the door.

Lincoln AGO Chapter Programs 2009-2010

If you can't make it to the October chapter program meeting, listed below are the other programs for the 2009-2010 season. We would love to see you there! Have you been thinking what piece will you be play for the member's recital? All programs will be preceded by a potluck supper at 6 p.m. except for the October/April meetings.

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, November 2 , 2009 7 p.m.	Member's Recital	Redeemer Lutheran Church (510 S. 33rd Street, Lincoln)
Sunday, January 4, 2010 7 p.m.	Organ Workshop Christopher Marks, organist	First-Plymouth Congregational Church (20th and D streets)
Monday, February 1 , 2010 7 p.m.	Annual Student Recital	First Presbyterian Church (840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln)
Monday, March 1 , 2010 7 p.m.	Choral Workshop Kurt von Kampen, clinician	Grace Lutheran Church (22nd and Washington streets, Lincoln)
April, 2010 TBA	Fremont Organ Crawl with Omaha Chapter	Fremont, Nebraska
Sunday, May 3 , 2010 7 p.m.	The Phoenix Electronic Organ Mark Miller, organist	First Christian Church (16th and K streets, Lincoln)

Soli Deo Gloria! "To God be the Glory"

Chiff Chat is a monthly publication of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Editor: Michael Bennett



LINCOLN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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