



# Chiff Chat

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

Volume 78, Number 2

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October, 2007

## JIM'S JOTTINGS

by James J. Lytton, ChM  
**Reaching Up!**

Many of you have read Marva Dawn's excellent book, *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down*. It is very good and if you have not read it, I would commend it to you.

But I learned in classes and through conversations with clergy and colleagues that liturgy should be a lifting up experience for a congregation, one that occurs through education, through the warm fuzzy feeling that you get when it all comes together, and through music that supports the service. When we do these things, the congregation can be lifted up through reaching up.

The reason that I mention this is because at the end of a board meeting last year, someone was talking about a local church that was essentially reaching out and dumbing down, which did set me to thinking about this subject.

Kevin Clarke, the organist at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, TX, has put out a CD called: *The Royal Standard: Masterworks from the Anglican Choral Tradition*. I do recommend the CD, but I especially was interested by Kevin's notes. He has a section called "A Philosophy of Church Music" – interesting reading. He points out that St. Clement followed Peter as Bishop of Rome and that he also wrote the first treatise about music of the liturgy. Here is a quote: "When we attend a service, do we know that we have entered the circle (the circle that is sacred)? Clement says that we know by the psalms and hymns that we sing, by the way the lessons are read, and the liturgy is executed, because it is different from the world we just left." And another quote: "Will the music create a haven in the every day experience of our lives, pointing to that place where we can focus on our spiritual

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Jim Lytton

## SEPTEMBER AGO MEETING

September 17, 2007 7:00 p.m.

Vespers and

**Installation of Officers**

**David Schmidt**

**Director of Music**

**James J. Lytton ChM,**

**Director of the Cathedral Choir**

**Reception following the service**

**Cathedral of the Risen Christ**

**3500 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln**



The Cathedral

We are going to open the year with the installation of officers (some newly elected) at the cathedral. We have not had many musical occasions at the cathedral for a number of years and now we are working to change that. The installation will follow the service of Vespers, one of the historical services of the hours. The service will be short and a reception will follow. I know that seven o'clock is early, but hopefully the reception (which will be more than punch and cookies), will make up for a missed dinner.



Jan Kraybill

Our Regional Councillor, Jan Kraybill, is coming to Lincoln to preside at the installation. If you don't know Jan, this will be a great time to meet her.

So a little history, followed by a great socializing time. Sounds to me like something

that should not be missed!

Hope to see you there. ☆

Save mailing costs by attending the  
September AGO meeting and  
picking up your membership directory.

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being?" I did speak with Kevin about what he had written and asked for permission for these quotes.

I deeply believe that I am called to be a church musician. And I believe that, as a church musician, I have an obligation to help my congregation to reach up. To me that is part of the calling. When I get goose bumps because of the way music has interacted with the liturgy, then I know that I am on the road to reaching up.

See you in church! ☆

**PEOPLE**

**W**e have three groups of people who work for our chapter on a regular basis: the board of the Lincoln chapter, the board of the Lincoln Organ Showcase (LOS), and the committee working on the Pipe Organ Advanced. There are also lots of people out there who work for the chapter from time to time, but I want to focus on these three groups.

The chapter board recently met for an extended time on Saturday, August 25, to work on plans for the year as well as to write new Chapter Operating Procedures. The board also agreed to help fund the Lincoln Organ Showcase and agreed to purchase the magnets that we are using for publicity for LOS. The LOS board has met several times over the summer to put plans in place for the new season and to work on finances.

The POE Advanced committee met during the summer for an organizing meeting. There will probably not be many regular meetings of the committee, but there will be meetings of groups within the committee from time to time.

All of these people are working for YOU, the members of the Lincoln chapter of the American Guild of Organists. When these groups join with you, it makes the Lincoln chapter a very exciting place. ☆

— FREE —

Baldwin organ 230D (purchased in 1973 for \$3,500). Two manuals, 25 pedals. Dorothy Jurgenson, 402.488.2739.

**OCTOBER AGO MEETING**

**October 22, 2007**

**Potluck Dinner and Choral Workshop**

**Potluck 6:00 p.m. — Workshop 7:00 p.m.**

**Jim Hejduk, Presenter**

**Northeast United Church of Christ**

**6200 Adams, Lincoln**

**W**arm-ups are like what men say about women and women about men: "Can't live with 'em; can't live without em!" Jim Hejduk will show you some practical warm-ups which aid not only the voice but the ear as well. He'll also introduce you to "the best practical warm-up" using *Messiah* as a starting place.



**Jim Hejduk**

Bring, beg, borrow, or steal (well, borrow) a copy of *Messiah* with you, and Jim will show you how to gussy it up to make old stand-by choruses in the Christmas portion make your congregation or audience sit up and take notice – all thanks to easily applied Baroque performance conventions. Sound boring? Not when you hear what's easily attainable with your choir. In less

elegant terms: Pimp Your *Messiah*!

And prior to the workshop at 7:00 p.m., there will be a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Our potluck will be a "pure" potluck dinner. That is, bring whatever you want!

**Beverages and place settings will be provided,** but bring whatever you like: appetizers, breads, salads, veggies, meat, dessert – you name it. Somehow, it always seems to work. If, by some

chance, everyone brings baked beans, we'll go back to the drawing board for our future meals. But, let's trust the law of averages and everyone's varied culinary skills and specialties. ☆

**CONVENER'S CORNER**

**by Pam Penner, CAGO**

**I** know the list last month looked overwhelming, but please don't feel you have to do everything. I am sure I won't, but pick out something to begin working on and begin. Make a list of what you would like to accomplish during the year and then BEGIN. Keep adding to your list as the year progresses and you will be amazed what you have accomplished by Christmas of 2008! Now, my suggestions to promote the organ in the church and community.

To promote the organ in my church/community:

- ◆ Have a Hymn Festival – remember the one Jeffrey Blersch did for the Regional Organ Festival in June? It was GREAT!
- ◆ Try some "new" stops (colors) to generate interest and awareness of the organ when you prepare your special music and introductions for services.
- ◆ Have your church sponsor an organ concert – either with you as the featured organist, or a guest organist, or BOTH! Find an organist friend who would like to perform also, and share a concert in your church and then in their church!

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**Pam Penner  
CAGO**



—RENEWAL—

For the few persons who have not renewed their AGO membership, this is the LAST issue of *Chiff Chat* that will be mailed to you. Please act now by calling Pam Penner at 402.797.2100 or visit <http://www.agolincoln.org/pdf/membspr07.pdf> for a dues renewal form.

First Friday  
Concert Series

October 5  
12:10 p.m.

Saint Paul United

Methodist Church  
1144 M Street, Lincoln

John Friesen will play the organ. His program is entitled "Bach to Bach." The concert is free. Donations are welcomed. A lunch consisting of a sandwich, soup, dessert and beverage will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for \$5 per person. ☆

## LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

Sunday, October 7, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

Ricardo Ramirez, Organist

Cathedral of the Risen Christ

3500 Sheridan Boulevard,

Lincoln

4:00 PM

**H** Ricardo Ramirez is the Director of Music/Organist for the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Chicago Illinois where he directs five choral ensembles and performs on the cathedral's three mechanical instruments, including the West Gallery's 117-rank organ built by Flentrop Orgelbouw. He earned the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the Eastman School of Music where his teachers included David Craighead (organ), Gerald Plain (composition) and William Dobbins (improvisation).

Dr. Ramirez specializes in French organ music of the twentieth century that includes

the complete organ works of Maurice Duruflé and the six symphonies for organ of Louis Vierne. The *Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, New York) said "his

performance of Duruflé's music was assured and graceful." The *Flint Journal's* review of his performance of Louis Vierne's "6th Symphony was impressive and exciting...(and)...the improvised set of variations on 'Veni Creator' should be written down as a model for improvisation." Prior to arriving at the Cathedral of the Holy Name, he was Director

of Music Ministries for the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Rochester, New York. Dr. Ramirez is the Dean of the Chicago Chapter of the AGO. ☆



Ramirez



LINCOLN  
ORGAN  
SHOWCASE

### (CONVENER, from Page 2)

- Promote local organ concerts to your congregation.
- Prepare an organ demonstrator and present it at your church. I have done this twice in the last couple of years, and it has been featured as the "message" on Sunday morning.
- Start a young organist lesson program in your church – as private lessons, or a group demonstration lesson.
- Write articles for your church newsletter about the organ, about your doctrine of hymn playing, about "the year of the organ," to promote it with your congregation.
- Above all – do what works best for you and your church.

**October 19, 2008**, the AGO intends to sponsor an international organ recital. Please consider what you can do to support this in your church and community.

Now, it is your turn. Please send me your suggestions on how we as a Guild can promote the organ in 2008. I would love to hear from you and I will gladly share your ideas with the rest of the Guild through newsletter articles.

[pampenner@hotmail.com](mailto:pampenner@hotmail.com) ☆

## ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Blersch, Jeffrey N. H 402.643.3206  
1726 North 1st Street W 402.643.7379  
Seward NE 68434-1261 jeffrey.blersch@cune.edu  
Concordia University, Seward  
Chair Music Department/University Organist

Lytle, Paul H 402.477.6248  
624 West Burt Drive W 402.420.7662  
Lincoln NE 68521-3810 pdl33@aol.com  
Bedient Pipe Organ Company

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

September	17	7:00 p.m.	AGO Meeting – Vespers and Installation of Officers – Cathedral of the Risen Christ – 3500 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln
	25	7:30 p.m.	Organ Recital – Gail Archer, Organist – Cornerstone UMHE – 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln
October	5	12:10 p.m.	First Friday Concert Series — Dr. John Friesen, Organ – "Bach to Bach" – Saint Paul United Methodist Church – 1144 M Street, Lincoln
	6	7:00 p.m.	University Chamber Singers, Concordia University – Zion Lutheran Church – 1305 Broadway, Imperial
	7	4:00 p.m.	Lincoln Organ Showcase – Ricardo Ramirez, Organist – Cathedral of the Risen Christ – 3500 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln
	15		<b>DEADLINE for NOVEMBER issue of Chiff Chat</b> – Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: <a href="mailto:mveak@neb.rr.com">mveak@neb.rr.com</a>
	22	6:00 p.m.	AGO Meeting – Potluck Dinner and Choral Workshop – Jim Hejduk, Presenter – Northeast United Church of Christ – 6200 Adams, Lincoln
	28	5:00 p.m.	Organ Recital – Joel Bacon, Organist – First Presbyterian Church – 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings



*A program of music for the  
king of instruments  
Sundays at 8:30 p.m.  
KZUM 89.3 FM*

## CONCERTS AT ZION IN IMPERIAL

**Zion Lutheran Church, 1305 Broadway, Imperial**

**by J. Gordon Christiansen, AAGO**

**Saturday, October 6, 7:00 p.m.** – UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS, Concordia University. Dr. Kurt E. von Kampen, Director. Reception following concert.

**Sunday, December 9, 2:30 p.m.** – CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS. Jean Farrer, organist; Zion English Hand Bell Choir, J. Gordon Christensen, Director; McCook Community Chorus, Evie Caldwell and Larry Johnson, Directors. Reception following concert.

**ORGAN RECITAL.** Date and time to be announced. Organ Student of Dr. Christopher Marks, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Reception following recital.

**Thursday, April 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.** – PIKES PEAK RINGERS, Kevin McChesney, Director. Reception following concert.

Concerts are free and open to the public. Free will donation suggested. Imperial is in the Mountain Time Zone. ☆

**Lincoln Chapter AGO  
536 Pier 2  
Lincoln NE 68528-1461**

