



From the Dean

by Charles Ore

She looked ravishingly beautiful standing at the back of the church on her father's arm. The sun was streaming in through the west windows casting colorful shafts of light across the sanctuary. I had just finished the pre-nuptial music and was reviewing in my mind the stunning registration that I had selected for the processional when I suddenly remembered, that I had not renewed my 2005-2006 membership in the LINCOLN AGO. I was appalled. Well, the mother of the bride had told me that she wanted a perfect ceremony. How could I play the perfect wedding ceremony and not be a member of the LINCOLN AGO. As the mother of the bride rose as a signal to begin the processional, I quit playing and said, "Wait, I need to send in my AGO membership dues!" As I took my checkbook from my pocket, I reflected on the many benefits that are a part of AGO membership — such as receiving *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST* on a monthly basis and becoming aware of what else is happening in the Lincoln organ community through this newsletter, *Chiff Chat*.

For example: Quentin Faulkner is playing a recital on September 1 and Jeffrey Blersch the 11th. John Friesen is sharing new organ music on an upcoming AGO program and the Lincoln Chapter of the AGO is celebrating it's 75th anniversary with a hymn festival by Omaha organist, David Schack, who has written a new choir anthem that was commissioned for the occasion. Actually
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SEPTEMBER AGO MEETING

Saturday, September 24, 2005

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

1144 M Street, Lincoln



John Friesen
Bedient Organ, Saint Paul

For our first AGO program of the year, Dr. John C. Friesen will present a new organ music reading session. John will talk about and play excerpts of solo organ music, organ plus instruments, music for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and for general use. There will be a variety of styles and levels of difficulty; something for all tastes and abilities.

Attendees may use the church parking garage, 11th Street entrance. An elevator is available. ♪

— LOS CONCERTS — 2005-2006 SEASON

[for tickets call 402.475.2927]

Sunday, September 11, 2005

Jeffrey Blersch, St. John Lutheran Church, Seward, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 25, 2005

Christoph Schluetter, Cornerstone, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Olivier Latry, Saint Paul UMC, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Peter Conte, First-Plymouth Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 5, 2006

Doug Cleveland, Nebraska Wesleyan University, 3:00 p.m. ♪



LINCOLN
ORGAN
SHOWCASE

(DEAN, from Page 1)

there is a whole year of events that bring organists together for fellowship and possibly more. Of course it would have been better to have taken care of my delinquent payment sooner, but now, at least, I had cleared my conscience and done my part to make this a perfect service. The wedding party was so quiet and seemingly understanding of my plight.

And now came the moment for the unique processional that I arranged for the occasion — using all of the massive reeds at my disposal, coupled with toe-toe pedaling and five-five fingering, I pressed piston #13 and felt the console quiver — the organ let go with a mighty roar that can only be described as memorable. More on the piece itself and also many of the varied responses by those in attendance in a later editorial.

DO NOT LET THIS "FORGOTTEN DUES" SITUATION HAPPEN TO YOU!

Meanwhile, the address of the AGO Treasurer is: Pam Penner, CAGO; 5001 West Old Cheney; Lincoln, NE 65823; 402.797.2100. Make your check in the amount of \$84.00 payable to the LINCOLN CHAPTER of the AGO.

Have a great year! ♪

Charles

Arts Ministry Conference:

Imago, Dei: Friends of Christianity and the Arts, will present its fourth annual fall arts ministry conference, "Visions of Glory: Arts Ministry in the Church," October 21-22, at Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS. The conference will explore the role of all the arts in the life of the church, including sessions on Handbell Techniques, Designing for Sacred Space, Storytelling Through Dance, and Writing Liturgical Dramas. For further information and a brochure, write to: IMAGO DEI; 3908 Stetson Drive; Lawrence, KS 66049, or visit www.churcharts.org. ♪

REMAINING LINCOLN CHAPTER AGO MEETINGS — 2005-2006

October 16, 2005 - Sunday

First-Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. Catered dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. for all chapter members as a celebration of the Chapter's 75th anniversary, followed by a hymn sing with area church choirs and a commissioned choral work by David Schack. First-Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D Streets, Lincoln.

Saturday, November 19, 2005

Southwood Lutheran Church, 2:00-3:30 p.m. John Helgen, from Minneapolis, Minnesota will present a reading session of church choral anthems for local directors and accompanists, with a focus on anthems which use creative and/or more challenging keyboard accompaniment parts, for piano as well as organ. The reading session is FREE, and music packets will be available at a discounted price.

No program in December 2005 or January 2006

Monday, February 20, 2006

Location to be announced — Potluck meal beginning at 6:15 p.m. for all chapter members — Student Recital 7:30 p.m. UNL and Concordia University students will be invited to perform, as well as students of other local organ teachers.

March and April: The Lincoln Chapter Executive Board is working on possible programs.

Monday, May 8, 2006

Joint Lincoln-Omaha Chapter meeting with the Lincoln chapter as hosts. We will travel to Omaha to the home of Bob Markworth who has a Kimball 3m/24 rank theatre pipe organ in his home, fully restored and maintained in excellent condition. We will eat supper at the Markworth home.

June

Annual all-member chapter picnic. Location TBA. ♪

BRAVO ALL

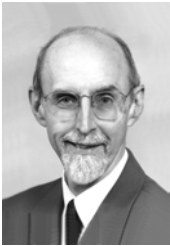
At the local chapter level the success of the AGO is totally dependent on qualified individuals who give of their time, effort and occasionally personal finance in order to make the organization a success. Having said that, it is also possible to state that the primary problem in publicly thanking some volunteer workers by name, is that worthy candidates of praise are frequently not mentioned. Please assume that all those who work for the AGO are needed, wanted and celebrated. Now — please join in a round of applause for Sara Schott [leading the charge for getting out many monthly editions of the *Chiff-Chat*], and Gerald Holbrook [for giving faithful service while serving as

Dean of the Lincoln AGO]. The world is a better place because of your efforts. In addition, please add your name and perhaps that of others, to the long list of those who have served the Lincoln Chapter AGO and accept [somewhat anonymously] a second, but equal, round of applause. BRAVO ALL! ♪

Charles Ore, Dean of the Lincoln AGO

September Organ Recitals

September 1



Dr. Quentin Faulkner, AAGO, will perform a UNL faculty recital on Thursday, September 1, 7:30 p.m., at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M Street, Lincoln. It will include works by Böhm, Purcell,

Quentin Faulkner Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel (completed by Claire Bushong, UNL DMA 1998), Ethyl Smyth, and Dan Locklair. Quentin will be playing the celebrated new (2002) organ built by the Bedient Organ Company of Lincoln.

LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

September 11

Jeffrey Blersch is Associate Professor of Music and University Organist at Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, where he teaches studio organ, courses in organ improvisation, service playing, and organ literature, and is the conductor of the Concordia Singers. Blersch is a graduate of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he received degrees in organ performance and music education, and of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance. He has studied organ with Roberta Gary, Garth Peacock, and Marilyn



Jeffrey Blersch



A program of music for the king of instruments

Sundays at 8:30 p.m.

KZUM 89.3 FM

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ACT NOW! If you do not send in your dues in the next few days, you will not be included in the AGO membership book to be given out at the October meeting. And, you will not receive the monthly publication of *Chiff Chat* after this issue. If you have Internet capabilities, go to <http://www.agolincoln.org/pdf/form.pdf> and print a copy. Otherwise, call Pam Penner, CAGO, 402.797.2100, NOW, to receive a membership form through the mail.

Mason, organ improvisation with Haskell Thomson, and choral conducting with Herbert Henke and Daniel Moe. Blersch has been actively involved in church music since being appointed organist of Peace Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, at age eight, and regularly performs recitals and hymn festivals across the United States. ♪

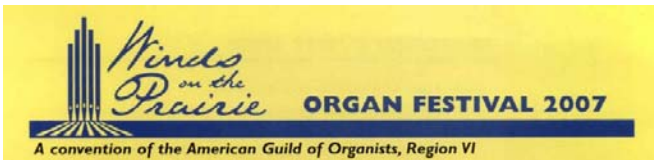
September 23

Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of its Casavant organ in the Shaw Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, September 23, 7:30 p.m. **David Pickering**, College Organist, will play a ten-year anniversary recital featuring music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Louis Vierne, Alice Jordan, Robert M. Speed, and Daniel Gawthrop. Graceland University has commissioned an organ work from Mr. Gawthrop entitled *O Jerusalem: A Symphony for Organ*, which will receive its premiere performance. This work is in four movements, each inspired by a scripture from Isaiah. Mr. Gawthrop will talk about this work in a pre-concert lecture beginning at 7:00 p.m. At the conclusion of the recital, professor Pickering's second CD recording, entitled *The Organ Music of Alice Jordan*, will be released. Everyone will have the opportunity to meet Alice Jordan and purchase a recording. In addition, people will have the chance to meet Robert M. Speed, a composer, professor emeritus at Grand View College, and a successful church musician who has made his entire career in Des Moines, as well as Daniel Gawthrop. The recital is free and open to the public. ♪

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

September	1	7:30 p.m.	Faculty Organ Recital — Quentin Faulkner, Organist — Saint Paul United Methodist Church — 1144 M Street, Lincoln
	11	4:00 p.m.	LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE — Jeffrey Blersch, Organist — St. John Lutheran Church — 919 North Columbia Avenue, Seward
	15		DEADLINE for October issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> — Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528-1461; Phone: 402.601.1811; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com
	24	10:00 a.m.	AGO MEETING — Dr. John C. Friesen, Presenter — New Organ Music Reading Session — Saint Paul UMC — 1144 M Street, Lincoln
October	16	5:30 p.m.	PLAN TO ATTEND THE 75 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR CHAPTER

Winds on the Prairie
Region VI AGO Festival Update



Vacations have come and gone and all the while the 2007 Organ Festival (convention) steering committee has been hard at work.

Our most pressing goal has been to develop our budget for the Festival. Ann Finkner is our finance committee director. She is doing, what seems to me, a remarkable job of guiding each committee director through the process of defining areas of expense and income. Each meeting further refines the budget. Our deadline to submit the proposed budget to the AGO national headquarters for approval is October 1, 2005.

The program committee is also working diligently to develop a program schedule of venues, artists and workshop presenters. If you have never been to a convention, you will be interested to know that workshops are provided on a wide variety of subjects addressing our needs as church musicians, teachers and performers. And of course, we all love the concerts. There are also, typically, opportunities for entertainment of a lighter variety and enjoying food and fellowship together. One comes away with a sense of inspiration to put into practice all that has been learned during a convention. The "Festival" aspect of this event is to rally the interest of the public, locally. We hope that the heightened visibility of our favored instrument will attract new and youthful patrons of the organ.

Planning this festival is an exciting experience. As time progresses, we will keep you informed regularly of our progress. All members are welcomed to get involved in the various aspects of running the festival. In fact we want you to be part of this experience with us. In the future we will be letting you know how you can get involved.

Happy pedaling! 🎹

Dr. John C. Friesen - Festival Coordinator

IN NEXT MONTH'S *CHIFF CHAT* . . .

Read about Pam Penner and John Friesen and their "demonstrator" programs and how the pipe organ is "cool."



Chiff Chat Lincoln Chapter
American Guild of Organists
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461

[This address box is upside down to satisfy mailing requirements.]