

From the Dean by Charles W. Ore

HELLO AGO: Fall is a time of new beginnings. During this busy season, some organists are:

1. . . . starting new jobs and hoping that the advertised description and the actual happenings in the work place are reasonably aligned;
2. . . . preparing their wardrobe for Halloween;
3. . . . employed in church settings and are anxious about working with a new/different pastor, the congregation, instrumentalists, and choirs;
4. . . . checking on cheap flights to Rio for Mardi Gras;
5. . . . working in an academic setting and will soon be considering issues related to curriculum, colleagues, constituents and the quality and quantity of their new recruits;
6. . . . testing to see if the Vox Humana really encourages one to "pee";
7. . . . facing retirement and thus reflecting on where they have been and about how their new realities may work together to reshape their lives;
8. . . . preparing for retirement by purchasing Nebraska Lottery tickets;
9. . . . going back to their regular place of work to continue the variety of tasks that have consumed them for the past several seasons;
10. . . . feeling guilt about not practicing the organ for the past two months and dreading the old grind;
11. . . . going back to school in hopes of gaining new insights in performance practice and honing skills that will be useful to them in future employment;
12. . . . ordering Christmas cards and finishing the Christmas letter;
13. . . . eagerly anticipating the new AGO season and helping with final preparations for "Winds on the Prairie" Organ Festival June 18-21, 2007;
14. . . . upset and confused about why the latest delivery from FedEx that includes Ludwig

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SEPTEMBER AGO ACTIVITY and LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

Thursday, September 14, 2006 — 7:00 p.m.

Mary Preston, Organist
St. John Lutheran Church
701 North 6th Street, Beatrice

The first AGO activity of the 2006-2007 year is combining with the first concert of the LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE, to be held in Beatrice, a short drive south of Lincoln.

Mary Preston has performed widely throughout North America, including performances in San Francisco, Chicago, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York, Ottawa, and Los Angeles. She appeared at Notre-Dame de Paris by special invitation of the late Pierre Cochereau and has performed at New York's Riverside Church. In the summer of 1994 Mary Preston's European recital tour included recitals at the Merseburg Cathedral in Berlin, St. Nikolai Church in Leipzig and Oliwa Cathedral in Poland and the Lichtenstein Palace in Prague.

Ms. Preston graduated with honors and received her Master of Music degree from the University of North Texas as a student of Charles Brown and continued post-graduate study with Russell Saunders at the Eastman School of Music. Her early training was with Kathryn McCain and Harold Mueller in San Francisco and followed by study with Garth Peacock at Oberlin Conservatory, John Walker at San Jose State University and Robert Anderson at Southern Methodist University. She has also coached and played in master classes with Jean Guillou, Marie-Claire Alain, Pierre Cochereau, and Michael Radulescu.

She is resident organist of the Dallas Symphony and curator of the celebrated Lay Family Concert Organ, Op. 100, built by C. B. Fisk, Inc. in the Meyerson Symphony Hall, Dallas. She has performed numerous recitals and engagements with the Dallas Symphony upon this new instrument along with solo recitals and concerts with organ and brass.

Tickets will be available at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased by going to the Lincoln chapter Web site (agolincoln.org) and clicking on the LOS logo on the home page. An opportunity to purchase tickets and be a sponsor are also on the chapter membership form. ♪



Mary Preston



**LINCOLN
ORGAN
SHOWCASE**

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drums and Roland synthesizer was placed in the organ loft! — I mean WHO authorized this purchase?

As an organist/musician you probably fit into one or more of these highly diverse categories. The Lincoln AGO cannot solve most of the issues that you may experience regularly in the workplace, but we can try to be supportive of one another and continue to celebrate the subjects that bring us all together. ♪

Charles

LINCOLN CHAPTER AGO BOARD MEMBERS

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Workshop in Imperial

Zion Lutheran Church in Imperial will host a one-day workshop for church musicians, pastors and worship leaders on Saturday, October 7. The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. MDT and end at 3:30 p.m.

The theme is "The Union of Music and Theology in Worship." Music clinician is Dr. Steven Hoffman, professor of organ at the University of Wyoming and Kantor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Theologian clinician is Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil, Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Six concurrent sessions and one combined session are planned. Organ, keyboard and choral music sessions will be

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Photo by Boyd Bacon

Faulkner/Ritchie Honored by Lincoln Chapter

[Editor's note: Last spring a retirement reception honored Drs. Quentin Faulkner, AAGO, and George Ritchie, upon their retirement from many years of teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and their work with the Lincoln Chapter AGO. Gerald Holbrook, Past Dean, read this tribute to the honorees written by Dean, Charles Ore, who was unable to be present that day. The tribute follows . . .]

Today we have the opportunity to honor and applaud George Ritchie and Quentin Faulkner for their many contributions to the Lincoln AGO and to the greater organ community throughout Nebraska and across America. Thank you George and Quentin for your hard work and especially for your friendship. All of us have benefitted from your coming to live in Nebraska and for your many years of service at UNL. I hope that many of us will have an opportunity to express personal feelings to you on this in the coming weeks.

In the early 70's when you both came to Nebraska, the matters of interpretation and technique were dominated by traditions handed down through Walcha, Dupré, Gleason, Andrews, Alain, Langlais and many others who claimed to be the true inheritors of authentic performance practice. Many of these traditions held that legato technique was basic and that good blood lines made for quality playing. I knew that my own career was in trouble when Marie-Claire Alain told me that if I was French and if I had good breeding, I would know how to play trills correctly.

Mildred Andrews told me that if I copied her special legato fingering and pedaling for the music of Buxtehude and then added a few detached notes here and there plus a little discrete phrasing similar to that which she just heard in Austria, my playing would truly be "North German."

Around the mid 1970's the voice of Harold Vogel began resonating through the organ community. Harold introduced a new approach to organ playing based on several key elements including the hierarchy of the beat [agogic accents used to create strong and weak beats that were inherent in the music] combined with keyboard techniques that were described in early treatises and played on early instruments. In fact, Harold Vogel [pushed along by the likes of Ritchie and Faulkner] started an ongoing revolution that shook the foundations of performance practice throughout the organ community in America — Ritchie and Faulkner became and still are leaders in the field of performance practice and pedagogy in organ playing.

The publications "ORGAN TECHNIQUE — Modern and Early" by George Ritchie and George Stauffer and "J. S. Bach's Keyboard Technique: A Historical Introduction" by Quentin Faulkner, are but two examples of the fine work that we associate with the UNL Organ Department. Of course I

learned much of this first hand when I enrolled in the DMA program at UNL and had the privilege of studying with both of you in the mid 1980's. It was GREAT!

It is the wish of the membership in the Lincoln AGO that you find peace and reason for living in retirement.

And, it is without saying that Dr. Mary Murrell Faulkner, CAGO, has contributed immensely to the organ community in Lincoln. Not only has she served churches as organist/music director, but she is a Past Dean of the Lincoln Chapter AGO and has worked diligently with the Lincoln Organ Showcase in many capacities. It is with her hard work that the Showcase thrives as it does, today. ♪

Charles

[Editor's Note: Life-time memberships in the AGO were presented to Quentin and George from the Lincoln Chapter.]

Austin Organ, Hastings by Vernon Groves, Organist

The Austin Organ at First Presbyterian Church in Hastings will be 50 years old this season. By way of celebration, the church

has asked four organists to play vesper recitals on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. After each of the recitals, there will be a light supper offered and a chance to visit with the performers.

- Charles Callahan — September 10

- Dr. J. Gordon Christiansen — October 29
- Michael Burkhard — February 18
- Paul Oakley — March 25

The church is located at 621 North Lincoln Avenue in Hastings. Following Highway 281 into Hastings, the church can clearly be seen on the left, at 7th Street. ♪



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offered concurrent with theological sessions. Dietze Music in Lincoln will provide displays of music for sale. The registration fee is \$35.00 with a **September 29 registration deadline**. Inquiries or requests for registration forms may be directed to Dr. J. Gordon Christiansen, SPC/CAGO/AAGO, at mrc@chase3000.com or Rev. David A. Kahle, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church at 308.882.5655.

The following afternoon, Sunday October 8, Zion will host a hymn sing based on a theme of baptism. Dr. Senkbeil will be commentator and Dr. Hoffman the organist. Dr. Christensen will be the choir director for the hymn sing. It will be followed by a reception. ♪

All the way from Halle, Germany

by Dr. Quentin Faulkner AAGO

[Editor's note: From time to time, Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner will use this spot to share information of their teaching and living in Halle, Germany for the next year.] ♪

— AGO Programs —

A full listing of the year's program schedule of meetings/activities will appear in the October issue of *Chiff Chat*.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ACT NOW! If you do not send in your dues in the next few days, your dues will be delinquent and it is likely that you will not be included in the AGO membership book (to be given out at the October meeting) or receive the monthly publication of *Chiff Chat*. If you have Internet capabilities, go to

<http://www.agolincoln.org/pdf/form.pdf>

and print a copy of the membership form. Otherwise, call Pam Penner, CAGO, 402.797.2100, NOW, to receive a membership form through the mail.

Thank You, Darrell

A big thank you to Darrell Fluehr who, for the past three years, has been Webmaster of the Lincoln Chapter AGO Web site. It is no small task to maintain a Web site. The membership thanks you, Darrell.

Welcome, Jim

A big thank you to Jim Lytton, ChM, who has taken over the position of Webmaster for the Lincoln Chapter AGO, replacing Darrell Fluehr. Thank you, Jim. ♪

<http://www.agolincoln.org/>



A program of music for the
king of instruments

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

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

DUES ARE DUE – DUES ARE DUE – DUES ARE DUE – DUES ARE DUE – DUES ARE DUE

SEPTEMBER	10	5:00 p.m.	ORGAN RECITAL — Charles Callahan, Organist — First Presbyterian Church — 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings
	14	7:00 p.m.	SEPTEMBER AGO ACTIVITY AND LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE — Mary Preston, Organist — St. John Lutheran Church — 701 North 6 th Street, Beatrice
	15		DEADLINE for October issue of <i>Chiff Chat</i> — Mike Veak; 536 Pier 2; Lincoln, NE 68528; Phone: 402.817.0830; E-mail: mveak@neb.rr.com
	29		REGISTRATION DEADLINE. See article: "Workshop in Imperial"

"Winds on the Prairie" – Organ Festival 2007 Steering Committee

- ◇ Coordinator: Dr. John Friesen
- ◇ Secretary/Treasurer: Pamela Penner CAGO
- ◇ Finance: William Smith, Ann Finkner
- ◇ Program: David Held, Willa Foster Jones
- ◇ Logistics: Duane Schmidt
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- ◇ Hotel Housing: William Smith
- ◇ Hospitality: Jack Cole
- ◇ Publicity: Sinda Dux
- ◇ Website: Jim Lytton, ChM
- ◇ Program Book + Advertising: Jim Lytton, ChM
- ◇ AGO/Quimby Regional Young Organist Competition: John Hawn

Organ Festival 2007 Update — by Dr. John C. Friesen, Convention Coordinator



Dear Colleagues,

It was a pleasure attending the national AGO convention in Chicago this summer. I'm sure that those of our membership who also attended will agree that the variety of concerts, music and workshops was refreshing and inspiring. The restaurants and seeing the sights in downtown Chicago aren't bad either!

During convention, week I had the opportunity to speak at the Region VI meeting. I invited everyone to attend our Organ Festival in June 2007. The response is always warm and enthusiastic. My emphasis is the number of new organs we are enjoying. Let me update what that means. Since about seven years ago, Lincoln has enjoyed four new organs by four organ builders. In addition, Omaha has two new organs which will be featured at our convention. That's six organs in seven years — pretty remarkable for a relatively small metropolitan area. This will be our main attraction.

But now, to the latest. Many contracts have been issued and signed. Our headliner artist is Paul Jacobs, Julliard School, performing at First-Plymouth Church. Other recitalists include Victoria Sirota, James David Christie, Marie Rubis Bauer, Jeffrey Blerch, Jonas Nordwall and David Spicer. This is an impressive line-up and we look forward to some wonderful music-making.

Much more could be said, but space prohibits more at this time. Be sure to attend our monthly meetings to get more details. The October meeting will be devoted entirely to the convention. Also, go to: (<http://www.agolincoln.org/>) and click on the Festival logo. ♪

How Can I Help *Winds on the Prairie*?

The steering committee of the regional convention is asking for a small financial donation from each member of the Guild. Twenty dollars (\$20) from each one of us will be very helpful in defraying costs involved in making this convention a success. Any amount, of course, will be welcomed. If you are able to do more, there will be a place for your gift. Remember, donations are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Lincoln Chapter AGO and send it to our treasurer, Pamela Penner, CAGO; 5001 West Old Cheney Road; Lincoln NE 68523.

John Friesen

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