



Jim's Jottings – SUMMER

by James J. Lytton, ChM

We are now coming into the time that students of all ages are heading back to the classroom and in some cases, they might be asked to write an essay on the topic of what they did during the summer. I don't know about you, but I have to do something in the spirit of renewal that gets me ready for the fall. If I don't, I start the "new year" unrefreshed, dull and stale. Sometimes I attend a workshop, sometimes a class, but whatever I do, the prime requirement is to get me ready for the fall.



Jim Lytton

So what did I do this summer? Well, the convention was exciting and started the process for me, but I knew that I would need more. I happened to notice that the Tallis Scholars have a summer school in Seattle. So I investigated the situation but discovered that registration for the summer school was closed UNLESS you were a tenor! Yep, that's me! So I applied. The Tallis Scholars don't just accept you when you send the check. You have to prove that you are worthy for admission. They really want a recommendation from your voice teacher or your choir director. Well, having neither at this moment, I gave them a run down about my past and the things that I do and they accepted me (although being a tenor probably helped a lot – out of about 55 people in attendance, we had only eight tenors!).

So what does one do at the Tallis Scholars Summer School? Sing! We sang six to eight hours a day for most of the week. The summer school is in Seattle and we lived on the campus of the University of Seattle which is a Jesuit institution. Living in the dorms could be another complete Dean's Letter! We sang Compline every night in the Chapel of St. Ignatius. And we sang our music at St. James Cathedral which is just a few blocks away

(Turn to JOTTINGS, Page 2)

SEPTEMBER AGO Meeting September 17, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

Vespers and Installation of Officers
Cathedral of the Risen Christ
3500 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln
David Schmidt, Director of Music
James J. Lytton, ChM
Director of the Cathedral Choir
Reception following the service



DATE CHANGE



Pam Penner

Convener's Corner by Pam Penner, CAGO

The National Office of the American Guild of Organists has declared the year 2008 as "The Year of the Organ." I find this quite exciting! I was thinking about this "event," I wondered what my role would be. Well, I have thought about it for six weeks and have come to the conclusion that my role is exactly what I want it to be – I can make the year of the organ a success or a failure by how I respond in my own musicality and in my churches. I quickly wrote down some ideas that came to me, lest they be forgotten and fall by the wayside, then decided to share them with you, and maybe you will add your ideas to mine to share with each other.

To promote the organ in my life:

- ★ Buy some new music – I always find this gives me a lift and incentive to practice!
- ★ Make sure that you are practicing on something that will challenge you.
- ★ Practice! Every day!!
- ★ Attend your local AGO meetings – get involved, if you are not already.
- ★ Encourage other organists – music directors – friends of the organ who are not members to join the local AGO chapter.
- ★ Buy a membership in your local AGO chapter for a student or friend. You just need to send the amount due for a student membership to your chapter treasurer and they will make sure some deserving student receives the membership.
- ★ Attend organ concerts in your community.
- ★ Take lessons – from another AGO member who is teaching, or sign up for the Church Organist Training Program through the University of Nebraska.

(Turn to CONVENER, Page 2)

(JOTTINGS, from Page 1)

(although up and down lots of hills). St. James Cathedral has wonderful acoustics and when we finished a piece, we could hear it echoing around the cathedral. The focus this year was music at the Sistine Chapel in the 16th century which meant primarily Palestrina, but also included Lotti and the famous Allegri "Miserere."

So, if one sings 16th century music all week, does this mean refreshment? You bet! I am primed and ready to go for the fall. Very little of the music that we sang has any practical application for me (most of it was double choir), but that's fine. Working with Peter Phillips and the other members of the Tallis Scholars was quite inspiring, the music was beautiful, I met lots of people (although most of them are much more serious singers than am I) and it was a great week. I was sad to see it end.

If you don't know the Tallis Scholars, go to Barnes & Noble or search the Internet for their CDs. The Tallis Scholars are a superb group that does nothing but 16th century polyphony. I first heard them in 1985 in Washington before they were as famous as they are today, and I have heard them several times since.

So, what did you do this summer?

Please notice that we have a lot of programs crammed into September and early October – a complete listing was in the July *Chiff Chat*. I hope that you will plan to attend many of the programs. Lots of people have worked very hard to arrange the programs and they are working on your behalf. Both the chapter programs and the Lincoln Organ Showcase programs represent a good diversity this year. Hopefully there will be something that will attract your attention. See you there.

Jim

(CONVENER, from Page 1)

- ★ Begin to work for an AGO certification.
- ★ Begin to teach young organ students. If you are teaching, you are learning!
- ★ Set your goals for the year, and then choose someone in your chapter to be accountable to. Make sure you write your goals down and make a time line for the year so you are able to accomplish all that you wanted to.
- ★ Above all – do what works best for you and your situation.

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

Coming next month – how to promote the organ in my church/community! Until then, write down some of your ideas and send them to me. We will share them with others through the newsletters! Join the band-wagon. If **WE** don't promote the organ – who will? pampenner@hotmail.com

Lincoln Chapter Executive Board

The executive board will be meeting for an extended time on August 25 at First Lutheran Church to attend to writing new chapter operating procedures for the chapter (as per national – replacing the by-laws) which will have to be approved by the membership.

ORGAN RECITAL**Gail Archer, organist****Tuesday – September 25 – 7:30 p.m.****Cornerstone United Ministries in Higher Education****640 North 16th Street, Lincoln****Works by Buxtehude, Scheidemann, Sweelinck, and Bach****FREE admission – sponsored by UNL**

Gail Archer is an international concert organist, lecturer, and recording artist whose sophomore solo CD release *A Mystic In the Making* (MM07007), featuring the music of Olivier Messiaen, was recently released from the Meyer Media label.

Throughout the 2007-08 season, Ms. Archer will be touring North America and Europe in support of her Meyer Media recording. An active recitalist in both Europe and the United States, she was featured on organ series in Budapest, Turin, Hamburg and the Hague in summer, 2004, and returned to Poland, Germany and Italy in summer, 2005. Ms. Archer lives in New York City, where she serves as Chair of the Music Department at Barnard College, Columbia University; Director of the Young Artist Series at Central Synagogue; Artistic Director of the Lunchtime Organ Recitals at historic Central Synagogue; and was recently appointed to the organ faculty at Manhattan School of Music and college organist at Vassar College. More info: www.gailarcher.com

**Gail Archer****Neihart Competition**

The CARLENE NEIHART INTERNATIONAL PIPE ORGAN COMPETITION will hold the 3rd competition at the Village Presbyterian Church of Prairie Village, Kansas on April 12, 2008 on their 90-rank pipe organ. The first place award is for \$2,500.00, the second place is for \$1,500.00 and the third place is for \$1,000.00.

Please see the web site www.organcompetitions.com for the rules, application and more information about the competition.

First Friday Concert Series

The First Friday Concert Series' first concert will be held in October. Plan to

attend October 5th with Dr. John Friesen, organist, playing "Bach to Bach."

LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE

by Sinda Dux, Publicity Asst.

Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Notre Dame de Paris, Eastman School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory, Morman Tabernacle, Riverside Church, Peabody Conservatory, Curtis Institute of Music -- an impressive list of music schools and music venues. If you've received your Lincoln Organ Showcase brochure (it's shape is long and light blue), you can read all these famous names among the credentials of the 2007-2008 LOS performers.

The first concert is coming soon, Thursday, September 6, featuring a dueling organ concert at First-Plymouth Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Pause in your busy day of practicing, selecting music, working at your Monday through Friday job, dealing with the pastor and the soloist and the choir director, and just generally trying to stay sane and fill out the Lincoln Organ Showcase order form found at the bottom of the LOS brochure or go to www.agolincoln.org and click on the Lincoln Organ Showcase logo.

2007-2008 Organ Series First Presbyterian Church

621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings

All concerts are at 5:00 p.m. The concerts are made possible by the Luella Langenberg endowment. There will be a luncheon in Fellowship Hall after each of the recitals.

September 9 – Paul Oakley

October 28 – Joel Bacon

February 17 – Lorenz Maycher

April 13 – Masako Nakamuro Bacon, AAGO

LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE Thursday, September 6 – 7:00 p.m. Dueling Organs

**Michael Messina & John Cummins, organists
First-Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC)
2000 D Street, Lincoln**

Michael Messina is the Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church,



Michael Messina

Indianapolis. Since his earliest days as a chorister, Michael has been making music in the church; he held his first church position at the age of sixteen in Kansas City. Michael continued his choral training in high school and then at Saint Olaf College, where he sang in the Saint Olaf Choir and was graduated magna cum laude with the BMus degree in Church Music. He holds MMus and DMA degrees in Organ and the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. At Trinity, Michael has developed a mixed intergenerational choir that has made two pilgrimages to England, singing daily services at Winchester, Chichester, Bristol and Durham cathedrals. In 2003 Michael founded Meridian Vocal Consort, a sixteen voice professional choir based at Trinity, with countertenor Steven Rickards. He currently serves as President of the Association of Anglican Musicians, and has taught and administered the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations in the Diocese of Indianapolis. Michael has served as Dean of the Rochester chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and Treasurer of the Indianapolis chapter. In 1996, he competed as one of seven semifinalists in the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance sponsored by the AGO.

John Cummins is the Minister of Music and Organist at First-Plymouth Congregational Church, U.C.C. and Artistic director of Abendmusik: Lincoln. A Kentucky native, Cummins holds the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. From 1996-2005 he was the Organist-Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Lexington, Kentucky where he was the Director of the Friends of Cathedral Music Series, The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and The Cathedral Girls Choir. An active recitalist, he has performed throughout the United States, and has been a featured performer at national conventions of the Organ Historical Society. Cummins was also the director of the MasterWorks Chorale for the Louisville Orchestra.



**LINCOLN
ORGAN
SHOWCASE**



John Cummins

AGO Membership Directory

Here is your last chance to be included in the AGO membership directory. **DUES ARE DUE NOW!** Call Pam Penner, CAGO, 402.797.2100. Membership books will be distributed at the September AGO meeting.

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

AUGUST	25		AGO Board Meeting – First Lutheran Church – 1551 South 70th Street, Lincoln
SEPTEMBER	6	7:00 p.m.	Lincoln Organ Showcase – Dueling Organists – Michael Messina and John Cummins, organists – First-Plymouth Congregational Church – 2000 D Street, Lincoln
	9	5:00 p.m.	Organ Recital – Paul Oakley, Organist – First Presbyterian Church – 621 North Lincoln Avenue, Hastings
	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
DATE CHANGE	17	7:00 p.m.	AGO Meeting – Vespers and Installation of Officers – Cathedral of the Risen Christ – 3500 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln – DATE CHANGE
	25	7:30 p.m.	Organ Recital – Gail Archer, Organist – Cornerstone UMHE – 640 North 16th Street, Lincoln

2008 Twin Cities AGO National Convention Web site

www.ago2008.org



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



Positions Available

East Lincoln Christian Church (7001 Edenton Road, Lincoln) is currently searching for a gifted leader of contemporary worship. Contact: Pastor, Becky Brown pastor@elcchurch.org

Christ United Methodist Church (4530 A Street, Lincoln) is seeking a full-time director of music ministry and worship arts. Details are on the chapter Web site <http://www.agolincoln.org/> or contact: admin@cumclinc.org

First United Methodist Church is currently looking for a part-time organist/accompanist with possible other duties. Interested applicants should contact the church office at 402.466.1906 for more information. Applicants may also contact Wes Hansmeyer at 202.730.3707 with specific questions.

POE Advanced - Director/Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Christopher Marks

Committee Members:

Assistant Director/Publicity Coordinator: James J. Lytton, ChM

Treasurer: Pamela Penner, CAGO

Facilities Coordinator: C. Richard Morris

Secretary/Registrar: Gene Bedient

Services Coordinator: Sinda Dux

Funding Coordinator: Ann Finkner

Lincoln has been chosen as the site for the first Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced. This is a great honor for our chapter and for the work that many people do in Lincoln for the AGO. The newly-formed committee had its first meeting on Sunday, August 12 at the home of the POE Advanced Director, Dr. Christopher Marks. The committee members discussed the scope of the project and how individual members will fit into the larger scheme of things. Look for further details about the POE Advanced in future issues of the *Chiff Chat*.



Lincoln Chapter AGO
536 Pier 2
Lincoln NE 68528-1461

