



# Chiff Chat

Newsletter of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

March 2017

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## Dean's Letter

The chapter executive committee met a couple of weeks ago after an outstanding organ concert by Monica Czausz. We discussed how wonderful the concert was, and how disappointing the attendance was. Just this past Sunday, my congregation hosted a wonderful pianist in a concert of truly interesting and lovely music. The concert left the attendees on a real “high”, however, attendance was low. My congregational president turned to me and asked, “What will it take to get people to come to these things?”

That really is a good question. Both concerts I mentioned were promoted both within the churches and in the newspapers. One was promoted on Facebook. One was promoted on the radio (Friday Live). What will it take to get people to come to classical concerts hosted by churches? Obviously, a few churches in Lincoln have well-established concert series, and yay for that! But what can the rest of us do? What can Lincoln Organ Showcase do about hosting world-class artists who end up playing for less than 50 people? How can we help people to see the value and beauty in what we offer?

I realize the above might seem kind of negative, but that isn't how I mean it. I believe that local congregations provide a layer of richness to our community by providing a space for some fantastic concerts that are affordable to all. I believe there is value in a volunteer church choir doing a concert of sacred music for a freewill offering. I know — people are busy. There are a million other things they could be doing. But I'm not ready to give up, and I hope you aren't either. We have a role to play in helping people learn about and value the music of our instrument (and music in general). Do you have ideas for encouraging people to attend organ or sacred music concerts? I'd love to hear them — email me and I'll include your suggestions in an upcoming newsletter! —Sara Schott, Chapter Dean

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### Lincoln Chapter Executive Committee

Sara Schott, Dean; Mark Miller, Sub-Dean; Ryan Luckey, Treasurer; Sinda Dux, Secretary  
Dan Ahlin and Claire Eason, Class of 2017; Nancy Anderson and Priscilla Kliever, Class of 2018  
Darrell Fluehr and Colt Ballou, Class of 2019; Christopher Marks, LOS Chair

# Friday Noon Concert and Art

Friday, March 3, 12:10 p.m.

St. Paul United Methodist Church

1144 M Street, Lincoln



Free concert celebrating the four fine keyboard instruments owned by the church. Performers include Dick Morris (organ, harpsichord); Nancy L. Schoen (McKinley Bells), and Morgan Cowell (piano). Joining Dick Morris on the harpsichord will be instrumentalists Genevieve Randall and Carole Goebes (recorders) and Jean Henderson (viola da gamba). An art exhibit in Paine Parlor will feature work from Theresa Bauer who is associated with the Noyes Gallery. Her acrylic paintings are diverse and colorful. Lunch (\$5) is available in Paine Parlor

beginning at 11:30 a.m. and following the concert. For more information, contact Dick Morris [\(402\) 261-3104](tel:402-261-3104) or [crichardmo@gmail.com](mailto:crichardmo@gmail.com)

## Allen Organ for Sale

Allen MDS1 #63926 for sale,  
purchased in 1993.

Excellent condition (last serviced on  
February 14, 2017 by Richard Walker).

Asking price is \$1,000, with buyer to  
make arrangements to move the  
instrument.

Please contact  
[susanstuart31@gmail.com](mailto:susanstuart31@gmail.com)

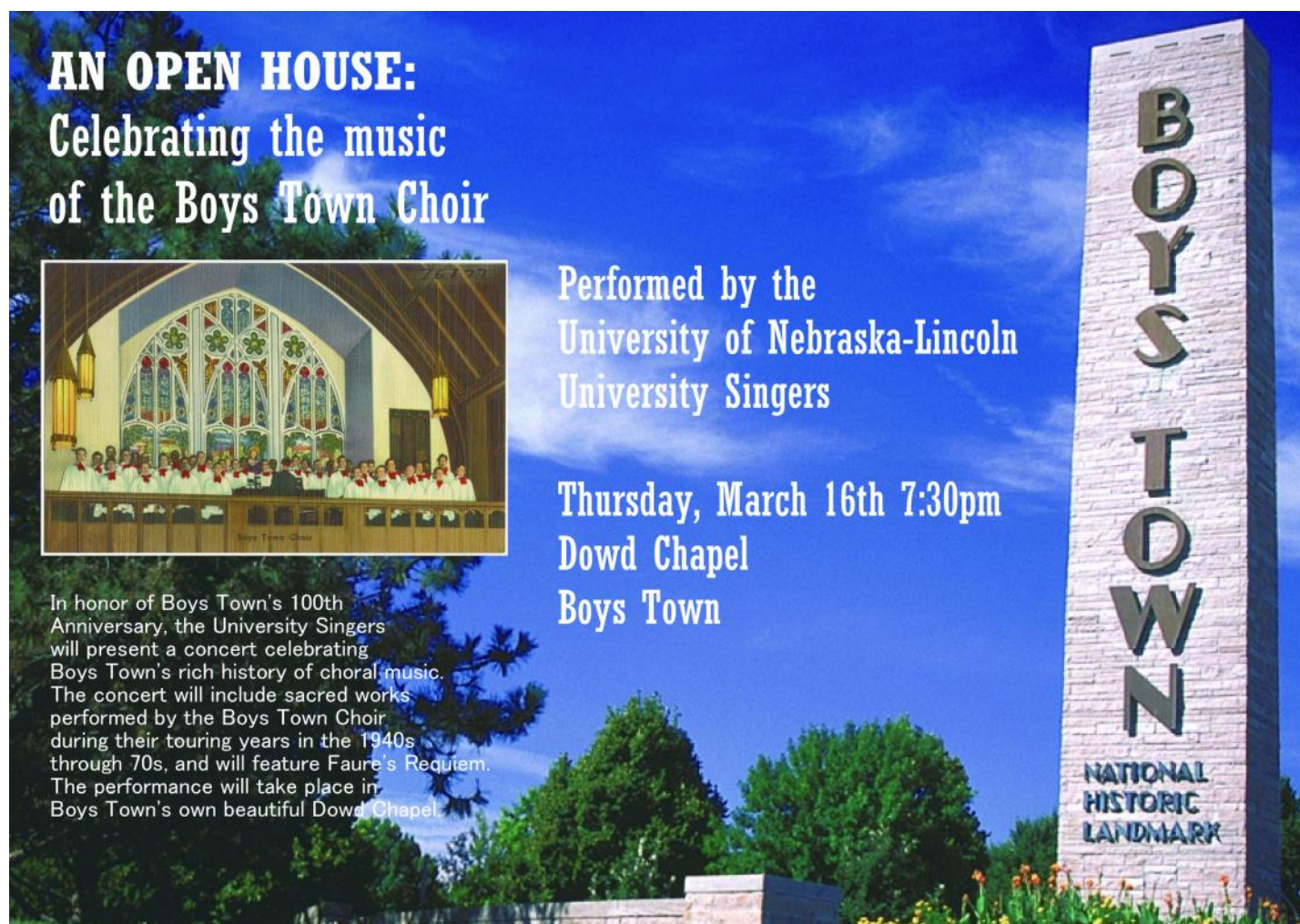


## Abendmusik at First-Plymouth Children's Choir Festival

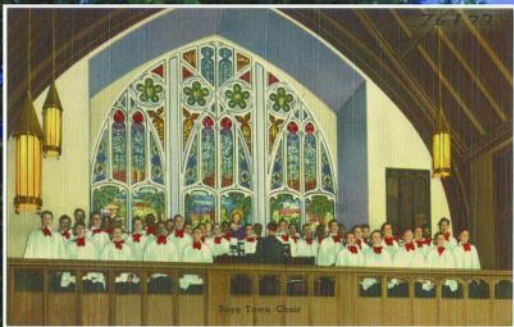
The 7th Annual First-Plymouth Children's Choir Festival was held on February 11th. The clinician was Karol Kimmel from Atlanta, Georgia. More than 40 young choristers came together to polish anthems they had previously learned. It was a great day! You can watch the video of the concert at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=koMYRzqbD2M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koMYRzqbD2M)

### Next Chapter Meeting: RCYO Competition St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M St., Lincoln March 11, 2017 11 a.m.

RCYO (Regional Chapter Young Organist) competitions coincide with Regional Conventions on alternating years with the National Competition. The Lincoln Chapter has one competitor, who is required to play a hymn during the competition in addition to his or her repertoire list. **All AGO members are encouraged to attend the competition to support the competitor and sing the hymn with verve and vigor. And feel free to bring friends!**

A tall, white, rectangular stone tower stands against a clear blue sky. The words "BOYS TOWN" are written vertically in large, dark, block letters on the tower's face. At the base of the tower, the words "NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK" are inscribed in smaller, dark letters. The tower is surrounded by green trees and some yellow flowers in the foreground.

**AN OPEN HOUSE:**  
Celebrating the music  
of the Boys Town Choir

A group of young men, the Boys Town Choir, are performing in a church. They are wearing white shirts with red ties and are standing in front of a large, colorful stained glass window. The church has a high, arched ceiling with wooden beams.

Performed by the  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
University Singers

Thursday, March 16th 7:30pm  
Dowd Chapel  
Boys Town

In honor of Boys Town's 100th Anniversary, the University Singers will present a concert celebrating Boys Town's rich history of choral music. The concert will include sacred works performed by the Boys Town Choir during their touring years in the 1940s through 70s, and will feature Faure's Requiem. The performance will take place in Boys Town's own beautiful Dowd Chapel.

This concert will be conducted by Dr. Pete Eklund and our own chapter board member, Colt B. Ballou (in partial fulfillment of the requirements for his DMA in choral conducting!)



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## Lincoln Chapter AGO

3721 Mohawk Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510

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### AGO Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Summary: March 19, 2017

The chapter executive committee met after the outstanding concert by Monica Czausz at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to Westminster for providing us with a meeting space!

One topic of discussion was Lincoln Organ Showcase. The next season has four participants firmly committed, with a possibility of a fifth wanting to be on the schedule as well. The general consensus was that the series this past year has been very good artistically-speaking, but that the board is disappointed in attendance. Ideas for increasing attendance and exposure were discussed; as well as discussion about increasing chapter membership. More discussion to follow in upcoming meetings.

Next chapter meeting is March 11th (RCYO competition) and all is well in hand for that. No meeting in April, and then an LOS recital at First Christian on May 7th. The board is considering some kind of fun social event as a wrap-up to our season in early June.

The executive committee approved further exploring the idea of co-sponsoring a workshop featuring John Ferguson when he is here for a hymn festival in the next program year.

The nominating committee will be forming shortly and working on finding nominees for the executive committee.

Budget-wise, both income and expenses are lower than we had anticipated, but we are on trend to be ok financially this year.

—submitted by Sara Schott, taking notes in the absence of Sinda Dux, Chapter Secretary

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