



Chiff Chat

Newsletter of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

February 2017

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Dean's Letter

One of the great things about our AGO chapter is the fellowship that happens whenever we get together. We have another opportunity for that coming up THIS SUNDAY, January 29th at 6 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. We are having a Movie Night, and we have several fun, short movies to watch. The first is a blast from the past ... *The Wind at One's Fingertips*. This 1986 NET documentary follows the Bedient Pipe Organ Company through the building of a large instrument, beginning with research in France and ending in Grand Rapids, Michigan with the assembling of the instrument. Several of our chapter's lifetime members appear in this educational walk down memory lane. We also have a brief video that follows four organists around New York City (including Ben Sheen, who played a Lincoln Organ Showcase concert here in October), and a look at the organ of King's College, Cambridge. As if all that weren't enough, we will have popcorn and theatre candy and pop. Please join us for this fun evening of learning and fellowship!

We also have a fantastic Lincoln Organ Showcase concert coming up on February 19th, featuring Monica Czausz on the Casavant Organ at Westminster Presbyterian. More information is on page 2. Please make an effort to attend this concert – I don't think you will be sorry!

It is time to begin thinking about summer continuing education events. You can find more information on the regional AGO conference on page 4 of this newsletter. As you attend conferences this summer, I'd love it if you took notes on a session or two and submitted an article to the newsletter. Also, please remember to send us notices about upcoming concerts or special services. The newsletter email address is chiffchat@gmail.com.

Sara Schott, Dean, Lincoln Chapter AGO

**Next Chapter Meeting: January 29, 6 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church, 2225 Washington Street**

Movie Night!!!

We will have a viewing of *The Wind at One's Fingertips*, and other documentaries, along with movie snacks and beverages! Come for some fun and socializing!

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 Kliewer, Class of 2018
Darrell Fluehr and Colt Ballou, Class of 2019
Christopher Marks, Lincoln Organ Showcase Chair

Friday Noon Concert and Art

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

St. Paul United Methodist Church

1144 M Street, Lincoln



Free concert featuring the students and faculty of the Union College Music Department. Performances will include the Unionaires, a vocal duet, and solos on the piano and organ. Of special interest to AGO members is fellow member Brent Shaw at the organ. An art exhibit in Paine Parlor will feature work from the Union College Department of Art. The exhibit will remain in place for the entire month.

The McKinley Bells, played by Nancy Schoen, will be heard from the church tower prior to the concert, and also broadcast into the sanctuary. 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:4022613104) or crichardmo@gmail.com)

Lincoln Organ Showcase:

Monica Czausz

February 19, 2017 3 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd.



An increasingly sought-after recitalist, Monica Czausz has performed at major events including the 2016 National Convention of the AGO in Houston, Texas both as a “Rising Star” and as Cathedral Organist for Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, and the 2016 Organ Historical Society National Convention in Bryn Athyn Pennsylvania. After her performance at the 2015 East Texas Organ Festival in Kilgore, Texas, The Tracker reported that, “This young lady just blew us all away.”

You do not want to miss this concert ... here is a personal note from Jim Hejduk regarding Monica’s playing: *I’d like to make a special plug for our upcoming Lincoln Organ Showcase recital by Monica Czausz (pronounced "Chouse," rhymes with "house" - I think!). I heard Monica play a breath-taking recital on the iconic Aeolian-Skinner at First Baptist Church in Longview, TX as part of the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival in 2015. She also received rave reviews at both the AGO and OHS national conventions this past summer. And she has just been added to the roster of Karen McFarlane Artists. Monica is finishing up a master's degree as a student of Ken Cowan at Rice University. You do not want to miss this opportunity to hear this remarkable young artist and urge you to attend.*

Know a Volunteer Organist Who Should Be an AGO Member?

The AGO National Council is excited to introduce a pilot program establishing a new category of membership for “Volunteer Organists.” If the pilot program is successful, this new AGO membership category will be available for any musicians who earn less than \$1,000 per year while serving as organists and/or choir directors. During the pilot period, the offer will be extended only to those who have attended an educational workshop for volunteer organists hosted by Don Cook. This complimentary, introductory membership includes all the benefits of a regular AGO membership with one exception. Volunteer Members may access TAO on-line, but will not receive a copy in the postal mail each month.

After the initial complimentary six-month period, Volunteer Members will be given the option to continue their membership at a discounted rate of \$50.00 per year with the same benefits package. If you know a Volunteer Organist who would be interested in this category, please advise your colleague to contact Don Cook at doncook@byu.edu for a schedule of his upcoming programs or to inquire about the status of the pilot program.

RCYO Competition Update

RCYO (Regional Chapter Young Organist) competitions coincide with Regional Conventions on alternating years with the National Competition. The Lincoln Chapter will hold a competition for our singular competitor on *Saturday, March 11, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 “M” St., Lincoln.* The competitor is required to play a hymn during the competition in addition to their repertoire list. **I encourage any and all AGO members (and non-members) to attend the competition to support the competitor and sing the hymn with verve and vigor.**

This year we have fifty-seven (57) competitors spread across twenty-seven (27) participating cities from regions across the U.S. The breakdown as follows:

- **5 competitors each:** Los Angeles, Salt Lake City
- **3 competitors each:** Indianapolis, Atlanta, New York City
- **2 competitors each:** Boston, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wash. DC, Charlotte, Knoxville, Cleveland, Grand Rapids, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Wichita, Baylor, Ft. Worth, Salem, San Francisco
- **1 competitor each:** Tulsa, **Lincoln**, Milwaukee, Columbus, Harrisburg, Tidewater, Bridgeport

I don’t have any figures for contestants, regions or cities from previous years, so I’m unable to compare this year’s competition numbers from previous years in that regard. I can only state that the average this year is approximately 2 competitors per city. In my opinion, the closing of organ departments at various conservatories, colleges/universities across the country over the past decade, changing trends in music styles in multi-denominational houses of worship, woefully inadequate salaries, (compared to the cost of a four-year degree in organ/liturgical music study) and “volunteer” positions have deterred pianists/piano majors from organ study. My church musician friends in Boston (where I resided for 38 yrs. before returning to Nebraska), a city with a history of saturation in the performing arts, tell me of their frustrations in finding organ substitutes at their respective churches, while some churches struggle to hire a regular organist/music director. As with many fads and trends in our culture, the pendulum swings in both directions, and nothing lasts forever. Hopefully, this will be the case with traditional liturgical music as well.

—Dan Ahlin, RCYO Competition Coordinator, Lincoln Chapter AGO

2017 North Central Regional AGO Convention

Join the River Valley Chapter from June 19 - 22, 2017 and enjoy the sights and sounds of pipe organs in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, IA - The Cultural Corridor of Iowa. Registration information is available at <http://www.rivervalleyago.org/northcentralregionalago2017>

Accommodations: **Sheraton Iowa City**

210 S. Dubuque Street

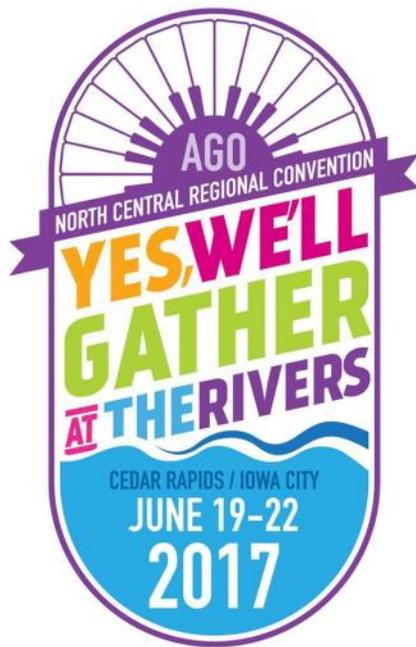
Iowa City, IA 52240

Reservations: (866) 716-8134

When booking your room, be sure to ask for the "2017 AGO North Central Convention" rate.

Venues including:

University of Iowa, Iowa City | 2016 Klais, 1987 Taylor & Boody
First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City | 1977 Lawrence Phelps (restored)
Coe College, Cedar Rapids | 1930 E.M. Skinner (restoration in progress)
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Marion | 1928 E.M. Skinner (restored)
St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Cedar Rapids | 1977 Sipe
Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids | 1928 Wurlitzer
TCR (Iowa Theatre), Cedar Rapids | 1928 Barton-Wangerin
First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids | 1971 Reuter
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Iowa City | 1883 Moline (restored)
First United Methodist Church, Iowa City | 1988 Holtkamp
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa City | 1965 Casavant
Congregational United Church of Christ, Iowa City | 2007 Casavant
St. Wenceslaus R.C. Church, Cedar Rapids | 1907 Pfeffer



Performances and Workshops by:

Ken Cowan
Aaron David Miller
Stephen Hamilton
Ahreum Han Congdon
Stefan Engels
Karen Black
Jeff Weiler
Marilyn Schempp
Marie Rubis Bauer
Joan DeVeve Dixon
Tanya Malloy
Gerhild Krapf
Carol Tralau
Tim Hein

Concerts and Other Happenings

Abendmusik presents...
Nordic Choir from Luther College
Friday, February 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Founded in 1946, the Luther College Nordic Choir enjoys international acclaim as a premier collegiate choral ensemble in the United States. Nordic Choir has toured extensively, including performances at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, LA's Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Mormon Tabernacle. Traditions within the Nordic Choir include holding hands during all performances, the sapphire blue velvet robes, and singing Pavel Chesnokov's O Lord God as the signature benedictory since 1948. Come experience one of America's richest choral traditions. Abendmusik.org or [402.476.9933](tel:402.476.9933) for more details. \$15 Adults | \$10 Seniors | \$5 Students

Seventh Annual Abendmusik Children's Choir Festival

Saturday, February 11, 2017

Registration is still open for children grades 3 through 5 to sing with the Omaha Children's Choir and Nebraska Academy of Vocal Arts for Abendmusik's seventh annual Children's Choir Festival. Fun and energetic guest conductor Karol Kimmell, Director of Youth and Children's Music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia, will lead this year's festival. Registration is only \$10 and scholarships are available. *Group rehearsals are available on Wednesdays 5:45 – 6:30 at First-Plymouth Church.* For registration details, visit www.LincolnSings.org or email info@abendmusik.org

My Funny Valentine: An Abendmusik Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 | Dinner - 6:30 p.m. & Concert - 8:00 p.m.

Won't you be Abendmusik's valentine? Back by popular demand, Tom Trenney serenades concertgoers from the Steinway piano, singing another unique and unexpected collection of love songs from the Great American Songbook. If you enjoy the incomparable melodies and unforgettable lyrics of Irving Berlin, the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein and Lerner and Lowe, Abendmusik will be your true love this Valentine's Day! Abendmusik.org or [402.476.9933](tel:402.476.9933) for more details. \$50 Dinner and Concert | \$25 Concert ONLY



Grace Lutheran Presents Elizabeth Grimpo, Piano **Sunday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m.**

This recital is part of Grace's 500th Reformation Anniversary Celebration. Grimpo will "Das Jahr", a piano cycle consisting of 12 pieces, one for each month of the year. The piece was composed by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, and has a Lutheran connection in that it incorporates the Easter hymn "Christ ist erstanden" (Christ is Arisen) in March, and the Christmas hymn "Vom Himmel hoch" (From Heaven Above) in December.

Dr. Grimpo is associate professor of music at Concordia University-Nebraska and regular organist at Christ Lutheran Church, Lincoln. The recital is free, a freewill offering will be collected. Grace is at 2225 Washington Street in Lincoln.

Lincoln Chapter AGO

3721 Mohawk Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

Andrew Carnegie bought 7,689 organs for churches. The purpose of the gift was, in Carnegie's words, "To lessen the pain of the sermons."



We are looking for an editor for the newsletter! If you could serve the chapter in this way, please contact Sara Schott at sschott@neb.rr.com

Wanted: Organ or Organ Parts

Organ enthusiast Matt Karabel recently contacted *Chiff Chat* with this request:

I am looking for a Rodgers, Johannus, Allen, Baldwin organ, or a church that closed down with a pipe organ still in it. I am fine with console parts such as a set of manuals and an AGO pedal board that I could wire up to a MIDI system. My budget is around \$500-\$1,000.

If you have or know of an organ that might fit the bill for Matt, please contact him at

am-honeybees@outlook.com

Abendmusik Youth Festival Concert

Tuesday, Feb 28 7 pm

The combined choirs of Lincoln East and Norris High Schools, accompanied by talented young chamber musicians, perform alongside professional singers and instrumentalists in presenting the beautiful Requiem by Gabriel Fauré. This FREE concert will confirm that the future of choral music in our community is in good hands...and hearts...and voices!
