



VOX PRINCIPALIS



The Newsletter of the
Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

August 2015

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The Dean's Column

from Wayne Wagner, Dean

Sincere thanks to all of our STAGO members and friends who participated in various ways during the past 2014-2015 season, whether by attending an event, helping to organize or presenting an event, serving on our executive board, or in other ways. The Sioux Trails chapter IS its members and friends. We are pleased to report that we continued to have consistent attendance at our events throughout the past season. Our summer series has averaged an audience of 60-70 each week, which is very good. We hope to see many of you at events in the coming season, as well as being involved in other ways as you enjoy and promote the organ throughout our south central Minnesota region in the coming year.

Many of you know that this calendar year, 2015, is a special one for our chapter, being our 35th anniversary year! On January 15, 1980, eight area organists signed the petition to begin the Sioux Trails chapter of the AGO. Early records are a bit sparse, but our current chapter roster includes three members who signed that petition as well as others who were early members of the chapter. To celebrate this milestone in our history the executive board is planning a Gala Members Recital this fall, October 10 at 7:30, on the 57-rank Schantz instrument at Martin Luther College, New Ulm. This event, open to the public, will be followed by light refreshments. Watch for further information in the coming weeks. And don't forget to start practicing – we'll be asking for players soon!

A special note of thanks to David Lim, who has been serving us as our Sub-Dean and Program Chair. His creative ideas, energetic and diligent efforts, and just plain hard work helped to make our events successful ones. We will miss his dynamism. As an expression of our chapter's thanks, the STAGO Executive Committee decided early this summer to present a \$300 gift to David to attend the AGO North Central Regional Convention held in St. Louis. We wish you well, David, as you transition to the University of Iowa to pursue graduate studies.

Looking ahead to the coming season, the events your STAGO executive committee has in mind for 2015-2016 include recitals, social gatherings, and educational activities. You will find some information about these elsewhere in this newsletter. As details become clearer, we will also try to keep you informed through emails, our website, and our Facebook page. For those of you who are not email or internet users, we will redouble our efforts to contact you through printed mail.

Our current chapter roster of members and friends includes about twenty persons. If you know of someone considering membership (or who might consider membership), do encourage them! Send me their name and contact information, and I will be happy to encourage them as well. Our members are as young as college students (several of these) and as old as Well, let's just say we have a wide range of ages, as well as organ playing abilities and locations of our members. Thus we have a wonderful opportunity to appreciate everyone's background, interests, and needs, and then to make use of this generational, performing, and geographic diversity for the benefit of all of us. Everyone is important, and everyone contributes to our common interest in the organ.

So, let's finish 2015 by celebrating our chapter and looking forward to many more years of enriching lives in south central Minnesota through the organ!

STAGO Board Announcements

Our current Sub-dean & Program Chair, David Lim, will step down from his position as he will begin graduate studies out-of-state at the University of Iowa. Current board members will cover these duties until a replacement is appointed or the next elections are held in spring, 2016.

Looking Ahead: 2015-16 Season

The following events have been proposed by the board for the 2015-16 season. Further details about all events will be publicized as they become available.

Recital, Chapter Dinner & Meeting | 30 August 2015

All are invited to attend a recital featuring the works of Maurice Duruflé presented by Dr. Brent Nolte at Martin Luther College's Chapel of the Christ (1995 Luther Court). The recital begins at 4.00pm in the Chapel of the Christ.

Following Dr. Nolte's recital, chapter members and friends are invited to a dinner at Turner Hall's Rathskeller (102 S. State Street) beginning at 5.30pm. A limited menu of five options will be available. Chapter business regarding the coming year's events will be discussed.

35th Year Gala Event | 10 October 2015

An official celebration and recognition of the Sioux Trails Chapter's 35th year will feature a recital performed by chapter members. The recital will be held at the Chapel of the Christ at Martin Luther College, beginning at 7.30pm. A reception will follow. This event is not to be missed!

Organ Crawl | TBD

An organ crawl to visit historic Barckhoff, Hendrickson, and Vogelpohl & Spaeth instruments in various locations throughout the rural Nicollet County.

Organ Concert | January 2015

The chapter is looking to bring a concert artist to the region for a concert and masterclass. A venue has also not been determined.

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza | February 2015

The STAGO will host an event for young students interested in the pipe organ. The workshop will run mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Students will have the opportunity to play and learn about various aspects of the organ and its history.

Annual Student Recital | March or April 2015

The STAGO presents its annual student recital featuring area college and high school organ students. The recital will feature the Dobson Organ at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato.

Summer Noontime Organ Recital Series 2016

The chapter will continue its annually organized and sponsored recital series in Mankato. The series will run June 14-August 16. The venue has yet to be selected.

Successful Recital Series 2015

Ten recitals and eleven performers demonstrated a variety of organ literature at this year's recital series at Christ the King and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Mankato. Recitals audiences ranged from 58-110 with both young and elderly present. The chapter received donations totaling roughly \$500. These recitals continue to be an important endeavor of the Sioux Trails Chapter.

Regional Convention 2015: St. Louis, MO

from Chad Winterfeldt

As I muse this August afternoon upon the heavy rainfall here in the beautiful Minnesota River valley, I am reminded of another wet and rainy time in another river valley this past June. That memory is of the North Central Region AGO Convention in Saint Louis, June 22 – 24. While the rain didn't fall every hour of the convention, enough had fallen in the days preceding and after to make travel to and from Saint Louis tricky! Bridges were out, detours were made, and yet, the events of the convention made all travel accommodations worth the effort.

Foremost in my experience of any convention is the opportunity to hear great recitalists on fantastic instruments. In Saint Louis, I was able to hear fine recitals by Chris Marks, Daryl Robinson, Thomas Murray, and Barbara Raedeke. In each case, repertoire and instrument were matched fantastically, with my favorite being the new Juget-Sinclair organ at St. Mark's Episcopal, as performed upon by Dr. Raedeke. I highly recommend her new recording *Confluences* on the Raven label. On that recording, she



showcases the 20-stop tracker St. Mark's, which is wonderful in its ability to convey stylistically and musically pieces from many time periods.

The Juget-Sinclair Instrument at St Mark's Episcopal Church, St Louis, MO (2009, II/23). Photo: Juget-Sinclair.

Of course, a convention offers many sessions and workshops that accommodate the broad diversity of interests of church musicians these days. I attended several, and as an example of the spectrum of topics, my two favorites were "Jazz in Worship" and "Lydian Fourths, Flattened Thirds, and a Tuba - The Music of Herbert Howells." Handbells, Children's Choirs, and theater organs were also featured in concert or in workshop.

The urban setting of this regional and the plethora of instruments available made this particular convention seem almost like a national gathering. I enjoyed conversations with friends old and new, and was pleased to enjoy sessions and meals with two Gustavus organists – David Lim and Emily Rudquist. Also along for the ride was my family, which meant some opportunities for adventure as well. Top spots were the Arch and the City Museum. All in all, the trip to Saint Louis was a refreshing time, both professionally and personally.

Recap: Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

from David Lim

On Saturday, March 14, the STAGO hosted a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza workshop, with 15 area student musicians in attendance. All gathered in Christ Chapel on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, eager to start exploring.

Following some introductions and comments about the day, and a trek up the balcony stair, Dr. Chad Winterfeldt began to demonstrate and explain how the pipe organ functions from the console with a group surrounding the console. Gustavus student, Tony Ouradnik, performed Bach's familiar Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV565. Students had the opportunity to play and explore the chapel organ, visiting the blower room, pipe chambers – all up close and personal. The workshop then moved Gustavus' organ studio to visit the mechanical action Noack organ. The mechanics of the organ were explained in further detail with the help of demonstration models. Different methods of pipe construction were also explored, exposing some of the colour possibilities that the organ affords. Students watched the 'mess' of trackers, squares, and roller boards dance whilst others played the Noack instrument.

The workshop then moved to First Lutheran Church for a pizza lunch, which was quickly eaten. Dr. David Fienen explained the Hendrickson organs visual appearance and some history of organ construction and layout. Before climbing the balcony stairs, the Horizontal Trumpet was demonstrated. Students were again able to play the organ, with some assistance from Gustavus organ students, who had them try playing pedals and on different manuals. Students were also exposed to some organ literature through various videos and recordings.



The workshop was well received by many – students, parents/guardians, and presenters alike! Many words of appreciation and encouragement were exchanged. Several people in the months since, a few inquiries about organ lessons have come in. Workshops such as this Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza are an important endeavor of the Guild to introduce young musicians to the organ. Many thanks to all for supporting this task!

Kalevi Kiviniemi in Concert at Gustavus

World renowned Finnish organist Kalevi Kiviniemi will present a concert on Friday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. He will be joined by Jukka Pietilä, baritone for a program sponsored by the Gustavus Artist Series and the Finlandia Foundation of Minnesota.

Tickets are available online through gustavustickets.com or by calling the Gustavus Ticket Center at 507-933-7590. Tickets will be \$15 for general admission tickets, \$12 for senior citizens and students. Additional questions may be directed to Chad Winterfeldt at cwinterf@gustavus.edu.

Kiviniemi is perhaps better known in Europe than in the U.S., but a quick perusal of his performances on Youtube shows him to be performer of amazing skill. In particular, his improvisations are masterful, and incorporate many styles and resources. Expect the unexpected!

Kiviniemi has performed internationally, with concerts at Notre Dame in Paris, at the Lahti Organ Festival in Finland, and with major orchestras, including the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. His discography numbers over 140 recordings.

Pietilä is the Cantor of the Cathedral in Turku, Finland, and frequently performs music of Finnish composers with Kiviniemi.

Call for Gala Recital Performers

The chapter is seeking members and former-members of the Sioux Trails Chapter to perform in the 35th Year Gala Recital at Martin Luther College, New Ulm. All who are interested in performing at this recital should send titles of repertoire and approximate durations to Wayne Wagner via email (wagnerwl@comcast.net) by September 15!

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