



# VOX PRINCIPALIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SIOUX TRAILS CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

SEPTEMBER 2013

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## FROM THE DEAN – ON STARTING OUR 34<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

Hopefully each of you has had a summer that provided time to relax a bit and enjoy people and things you value in your personal life. Some of my favorites have been attending organ concerts in several summer series (and playing in some of them), checking out recent organ installations, catching up on reading that included past issues of *The American Organist* and *The Tracker* (the Organ Historical Society journal), and spending time with other organists. But besides personal enjoyment, such activities provided much professional growth. Some of you, I'm sure, have had some similar experiences this summer.

As we begin our 34<sup>th</sup> year, we have many reasons to be optimistic and excited about the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Reviewing the 2012-2013 season it is easy to see dedication and vibrancy, two very important aspects of an organization such as ours. Let me point out some highlights:

- We continued to provide a means to further enrich our own lives through organ music and the lives of many others in south central Minnesota.
- Our chapter membership remained stable, and we continued to be a viable organization.
- Chapter members participated and assisted in various tasks, keeping us active in many ways. Thank you!
- We enjoyed and brought to our communities interesting events with varying social, educational, professional, and practical emphases.
- At our annual student recital we heard younger performers who showed us that the art and craft of organ playing is most certainly alive and well.
- Three of the eight members of our chapter leadership are under the age of 25. This has brought not only youthfulness to our discussions, literally, but also energy to our planning and actions.
- Our 2013 summer organ concert series provided quality performers and music, enjoyed good attendances, and received consistently enthusiastic responses. (Read more about the series in the article by Mark Thompson.)
- We have increased our internet presence with an updated website and a Facebook page. We also had some upgrades in our newsletter and graphics areas.
- We have moved to non-print modes as our primary means of communicating chapter information.
- We are financially stable.

Now on to 2013-2014! You will read in this newsletter about some of the activities that are planned or being considered. We hope that you will find them again of interest and be able to join other chapter members at them. As always, bring a friend! And, if you have a suggestion of an event that you would like us to consider in future planning, please tell us. You have good ideas that we would like to hear about.

Our first event this fall is our annual meeting and dinner on September 8. We will do our best to keep the meeting part short. As some of you would very helpfully remind me, we are primarily there to socialize and eat. Look for the details in this newsletter.

To the Executive Committee and others who give of their time and talents I extend my personal thanks, as well as that of our chapter members. Being entirely a volunteer organization, we would not exist without your willingness to be of service to others. May your efforts continue to benefit our membership and further the organ in our area.

We plan to keep you informed through occasional newsletters and email messages, with print mailings to those for whom we do not have an email address. Also, do check our website ([www.agosiouxtrails.org](http://www.agosiouxtrails.org)) regularly for updates of events and other information. Know that you can contact me or any Executive Committee members if you have concerns, comments, or suggestions. So again, on to 2013-2014. Enjoy!

## **CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2013–2014 SEASON**

Many events have yet to have details finalized. Once finalized, chapter members will be notified accordingly via email and other communications. Event details will be posted on the chapter website.

*Events currently included:*

### **Chapter Get-Together, 8 September 2013**

The season's kick-off event will be a member's get-together. Dino's Pizzeria in lower North Mankato (239 Belgrade Avenue) will be the venue for dinner and conversation beginning at 6:00pm. The regular menu will be available to order from. More information about the restaurant can be found at [dinospizzeria.com](http://dinospizzeria.com).

### **DVD Presentation on French organ builder Aristide Cavallé-Coll, Winter 2013**

Former chapter dean, Chad Winterfeldt, has opened the possibility for a private viewing of a recently produced and purchased documentary detailing the work of Cavallé-Coll. More information about the documentary can be found at [fuguestatefilms.co.uk](http://fuguestatefilms.co.uk). Further details to be announced.

### **Annual Student Recital, Spring 2014**

The STAGO presents its annual student recital featuring area college and high school students. Recital will feature the 57-rank Schantz organ in the Chapel of the Christ at Martin Luther College. Further details to be announced.

### **Summer Organ Recital Series 2014**

The chapter will continue its annually organized and sponsored recital series in Mankato. At present, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato will likely be the venue. We will be fortunate to experience the newly renovated facilities at Bethlehem and eagerly await a return 'home'.

*Additional events being considered:*

### **Pipe Organ Discovery Day, Fall 2013**

The Sioux Trails AGO will host an event for students (ages 5-18) interested in the pipe organ. The event will be held in Saint Peter and will feature instruments at First Lutheran Church (1114 Traverse Road) and Gustavus Adolphus College (800 W College Avenue). The day 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. Students should have some keyboard experience. Further details to be announced.

### **Hymn Workshop and Masterclass, Spring 2014**

David Cherwien, Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, will lead a hymn workshop for our chapter members, friends, and members of the community. Members encouraged to bring other musicians from their congregations to the workshop. This event will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Peter (427 W Mulberry Street). Further details to be announced.

## **“REPRISE” ORGAN CONCERTS AT MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE**

Four performers will be repeating their organ concerts from the recent summer series at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. The concerts begin at 8:00pm on September 3 and 10 in the Chapel of the Christ on the MLC campus.

Tuesday, September 3 – Robert Potratz and Wayne Wagner

Tuesday, September 10 – Ames Anderson and Ronald Shilling.

## **CHAPTER MAILING PROCEDURE CHANGE**

In last fall's edition of *Vox Principalis* it was noted that the chapter elected to use various electronic methods as the primary means of communication with members, thereby replacing printed items. However, in doing so, chapter members without email, and the like, are excluded from many of the chapter's current electronic communications. In efforts to improve communications with these members, the chapter will now send all members without email a printed copy of the newsletters and other news items. Members with email who would like to be included in these printed mailings should contact the newsletter editor, David Lim, at [dlim@gustavus.edu](mailto:dlim@gustavus.edu).

## **RETROSPECT OF SUMMER RECITAL SERIES 2013**

Our summer series was held entirely at Grace Lutheran Church this year as Bethlehem Lutheran Church, which normally hosts part of the series, was under construction this year and the Holtkamp organ at Bethlehem was shrouded in protective plastic wrap. Grace's organ, built by Hendrickson of St. Peter, was up to the task. STAGO expresses thanks to Grace Lutheran for the use of their building and instrument.

The series ran for 10 weeks and featured composers from Bach to Utterback, and even featured a hymn written by Queen Liliuokalan of Hawaii.

Chad Winterfeldt, immediate past Dean of the chapter, opened the series in June. Ames Anderson followed, and the last recitalist in June was Wyatt Smith. Composers whose music was played included Bach, Messiaen, and Franck, showcasing a wide range of styles and historic periods.

July performers included David Porth, David Fienen, Ron Shilling, Wayne Wagner and Mark DeGarmeaux. Recitalists played works by Bach, Buxtehude, Karg-Elert, and our very own STAGO secretary, Christine Schulz. David Porth played two of five variations that were written by Christine on *The Ash Grove*.

The 2013 series concluded with Kraig Windschitl and Christine Schulz. Kraig's recital featured a duet for piano and organ by Joseph Utterback. The duet, *Visions*, is quite lovely and this writer hopes to hear it again. At Kraig's recital we ran out of programs, but Kraig demonstrated his skills at extemporaneous speaking, delivering program notes from memory for that performance.

Composers of the music played in August range from Mulet to Utterback. The final recital, by Christine Schulz, provided listeners a chance to hear the Hawaiian hymn.

Attendance was very good, with 50-70 at each recital. The audience spanned a wide range of people from Mankato, Saint Peter, and New Ulm.

Many recitalists, throughout the years, have encouraged their students to play, allowing chapter members and all attendees to hear magnificent music all summer long. We extend our warmest thanks to those musicians who donated time from their summers to plan, practice and play these wonderful pieces. This recital series is one of the longest continuing series in the state, taking place every summer for more than 30 years. Thanks once again for both dedication and artistry.

– Mark Thompson, Member-at-large

## **TOM BELL IN RECITAL AT MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE**

Tom Bell, organist from London, England, will present a concert on the 57-rank Schantz organ in the Chapel of the Christ at Martin Luther College, New Ulm. The concert is Tuesday, October 8, beginning at 8:00pm. Admission is \$12 at the door.

To encourage our Sioux Trails chapter members to attend, the Executive Committee has decided that chapter funds will pay part of the admission for STAGO chapter members and one guest, thus reducing it to only \$5.00 per person. Simply identify yourself as a STAGO member to receive the reduction.

Tom Bell, organist and choir master at St. Michael's Chester Square in London's West End, performs regularly in the UK and abroad. On his 2013 fall trip to the U.S. he will play at the Washington National Cathedral, as well as in New Hampshire and at Boston's historic Trinity Church. His highly acclaimed debut CD "Masters of the Monarch's Music" (recorded at Durham Cathedral) was released on the Regent label earlier this year. Tom aims to present varied programs including standard repertoire and new works, some of which he has commissioned. He also teaches organ for the Royal College of Organists St. Giles International Organ School and is involved with projects designed to educate both children and adults about the organ. In 2012 he performed on several of the organs included in the Pipedreams Tour of organs in England led by Michael Barone. Read more about him on his website ([tombell-organist.net](http://tombell-organist.net)).

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# **SIOUX TRAILS CHAPTER**

## **AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

### **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

**Dean:** Wayne Wagner, wagnerwl@comcast.net

**Sub-Dean/Program Chair:** Michael Asmus, masmus@gustavus.edu

**Secretary:** Christine Schulz, musicbox@hickorytech.net

**Treasurer:** Ron Shilling, shillirl@mlc-wels.edu

**Publicity Chair:** David Porth, porthda@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor:** David Lim, dlim@gustavus.edu

**Member-at-Large:** Paul Otte, otte@hutchtel.net

**Member-at-Large:** Mark Thompson, markt@ctmankato.org

### **STAGO CONTRACT INFORMATION**

**Website:** [www.agsiouxtrails.org](http://www.agsiouxtrails.org)

**Email:** [agsiouxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:agsiouxtrails@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/agsiouxtrails](http://www.facebook.com/agsiouxtrails)

**National AGO Website:** [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)

**The Sioux Trails AGO Chapter invites you to submit your recitals and other forthcoming organ-related events for placement on the chapter website. Submit events at least a month in advance via email, [agsiouxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:agsiouxtrails@gmail.com).**

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