

WINDWORKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ARROWHEAD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
WHERE THE PIPE ORGAN IS CELEBRATED



Brian Kapp, Dean

A NOTE FROM BRIAN

Hello, Arrowhead AGO!

As we enter into 2023, I wish you the warmest greetings! With the reception of a check from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation a few months ago, the board voted to enter into a purchase agreement with OrgelKids USA to purchase a kit (more information can be found in past newsletters and at orgelkidsusa.org). Our kit is being fabricated and will arrive to us by the end of May. Given this information, we postponed our Pedals, Pipes, and Pinot event, as you already know, in favor of holding an inaugural event with our new OrgelKids kit in late May or early June for our membership to see and experience. Though we have put up funds for the kit, we are still hard at work applying for grants and doing our best to raise additional funding for this new venture.

Coming up, we have our In Praise of Bach concert and Gala at 6:30 pm on April 21st at First Lutheran in Duluth. We are adjusting the format slightly to include a heavy appetizer reception and a reimagined silent auction. This, as always, is sure to be an outstanding event full of wonderful music and fabulous camaraderie. I can't wait to see you there!

On a very different note, the next governing board meeting is Monday, February 13 at 9:00 am via Zoom. If you would like to attend any of these meetings, please feel free to let me know, and I'll make sure you receive a link so that you can attend.

See you soon!

-Brian

GOOD NEWS THIS ISSUE:

- A Note from Brian
- Meet a Scholarship Student:
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Karen Hanson Sande
- "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining
Forth", *An Wasserflüssen
Babylon*,
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- Rank & File: Organ Essentials,
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- AGO Events
- Pithy Quotes from Bill Percy,
Jan Bilden
- From the Editor

MEET A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT

Karen Hanson Sande

Paavo Rova

Paavo Rova, student of Karen Hanson Sande, received an Arrowhead Chapter organ student scholarship and began lessons July of 2022. He and his family are long time members of First Lutheran Church-Duluth, where from an early age he participated in music, singing in the children's choir and playing guitar solos as a Sunday School student. His extended family, with many pastors in it, is very supportive of music involvement. He now plays in our youth handbell group, substitutes with the adult handbell group, and plays string bass in instrumental ensembles. Paavo is a junior at East High School, where he participates in A Capella Choir, Symphony Orchestra, Nordic skiing and track. He also plays in the DSSO Youth Orchestra and continues with piano lessons. He has a real interest in how pipe organs work and in exploring all the stops, and shows great initiative in finding practice time here on both of our Jaekel organs, and on the harpsichord. He has played twice in worship services: a Telemann piece on harpsichord, and three chorale preludes on Advent/Christmas hymns.



PAAVO ROVA PLAYING THE JAEKEL
ORGAN AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TEXT: "A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH" BY PAUL GERHARDT
TUNE: "AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON BY WOLFGANG WACHSTEIN"

Rev. Dr. David Tryggestad

One of the most poignant choral compositions, for me, is *Super Flumina Babylonis*, by Giovanni da Palestrina. I remember weeping through the florid and fluid tenor lines while in the Chapel Choir at Luther College during my freshman year, way back in 1968. Singing the devastating words of Psalm 137, "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion," I felt thrust back in time two and a half millennia to ancient Babylon. The psalmist captures the devastating pain and loss of having been removed from the ruins of war-ravaged Jerusalem, relocated in the land of their captors, and forced to take up their lyres and sing the songs of Zion, for which the Israelites were well known. "How could we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?" The psalmist cries out for all those displaced throughout history. I think now, especially, about our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. (One of the regular volunteers for Friends of the Felgemaker concerts at Sacred Heart, Alex, is from Ukraine. His mother was living in Kiev when the war started.)

Psalm 137 was translated as *An Wasserflüssen Babylon* as the German metrical version in the Reformed tradition, and the hymn also made its way into the Lutheran tradition. The tune associated with the text was composed by Wolfgang Dachstein and published in Strassburg in 1525. Dachstein was a student in Erfurt in 1503 when Martin Luther was also a student there. Like many of us in the profession of church musician, Dachstein was ecumenical; after his schooling, he became a Dominican monk, was organist at St. Thomas Church in Erfurt in 1521, left the Order, married in 1524, became organist at the Cathedral in 1541, and rejoined the Roman Catholic Church.

Dachstein's chorale tune has inspired choral and organ composers through the centuries, including Johann Adam Reincken, Johann Pachelbel and J.S. Bach. In 1720 Bach traveled to Hamburg to be in the company of the aged Reincken, known for his long fantasia on this chorale, and famously improvised on this melody, as related in Bach's obituary: "At the request of those present, Bach performed the chorale *An Wasserflüssen Babylon* extempore, very amply for almost half an hour, in a variety of ways . . ." No doubt the more mature Bach thought back to that event when he composed his five-part organ setting with double pedal (BWV 653b) and the later four-part "revision" in the so-called "Eighteen Chorales" (BWV 653).

The hymn text often associated with this tune is "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth" by Paul Gerhardt, published in 1647. It has been called "the model hymn of all Passion hymns," based on Jesus as Lamb of God in the Gospel of John 1:29. (Only four of Gerhardt's original ten stanzas made their way into *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.) Noted German biblical scholar, Wolf Krötke, while imprisoned in an East German prison, referenced stanza 8 of Gerhard's original text, quoting a phrase referring to Jesus as the "little lambkin": "'He will be a spring of water for my thirst, a companion with a word for my loneliness'—just for this one verse, I love this hymn. 'A companion with a word'—that means to me all words about our experience of God. They broaden the space that has been allotted us. They turned the couple of square meters in front of my wooden bench into the wide open spaced in which God sets our feet."

Just a day before this writing, I received a letter from another prison, from a dear friend and former colleague who has served almost nine years of a ten-year sentence. He has been reading Bono's memoir, and in it the musician writes about the hymn, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah": "When you hear these huge hymns you can survive any loss. You can take any amount of blows. You can make the most difficult decisions. You can march forward in your life against all adversity."

Our calling as church musicians is a high one, indeed.

RANK AND FILE: ORGAN ESSENTIALS

Dave Rollin

Keeping the Organ Clean and Protected

Pipe organs can last centuries; however, it is important to protect them from damage. A recent example highlights this. As of this writing, use of the historic Felgemaker organ in the Sacred Heart Music Center in Duluth, MN has been paused. An unauthorized person (or persons) gained access to the attic space above the organ and fell onto the ceiling, not only puncturing the ceiling but raining plaster and lath debris onto and into the organ. Most of the debris stayed on top of the plastic sheet that had been previously stretched above the organ; however, some penetrated or bypassed the plastic and landed on and in the pipes of the Great and Pedal divisions. The Swell division escaped problems because it is completely enclosed and the swell shades were mostly closed; however, before the organ can be played, the debris must be cleaned out to prevent further damage. Fortunately, I didn't see impact damage to the pipes; however, the grit and dust can choke the windways of flue pipes and clog the shallots of reed pipes. This incident serves as a good reminder of measures caretakers of organs can take to protect them. In addition to accidents, construction and remodeling can generate dust or dirt that is hazardous to the health of organs. Before such work begins, it is important to wrap the organ in plastic sheeting and tape seams to seal the enclosure. An organ technician should also be consulted to point out what the plastic can touch or bear on and what the plastic should not touch. It is interesting to note that from Gothic through Renaissance times in Europe, it was common for organ cases to be fitted with hinged shutters that could close off the entire front of the organ above the console. The shutters had the function of protecting the organ from birds, bats, and dust as buildings were not nearly as "tight" as modern buildings. The shutters also had liturgical significance. The organ was closed during Lent and the shutters were often painted with scenes or characters from the Bible.

Another hazard to organs is water. Leaks in the roof above an organ can cause significant damage to pipes, wind chests and reservoirs. This happened to the organ at Denfeld High School in Duluth. The roof has been repaired; however, restoration of the organ remains to be completed. A leak above the antiphonal division of the organ at First United Methodist Church in Duluth prompted the installation of a case around it to shed any future drips. (A member of the congregation at that time joked that the roof leaks meant they couldn't be considered "dry Methodists"). Periodic inspections of the inside of the organ, and the roof above it, are also important to discover problems and make repairs in a timely manner.

Physical security of the organ is also important. I have seen organs where someone got into the case or chambers and pipes were either taken or damaged. Some damaged pipes were bent over and looked like something had either been dropped on them or they had been stepped on. Remember that most pipes are made of a soft metal and an untrained person can do damage unintentionally. Depending on the extent of damage, pipes can either be repaired or replaced; however, for a price. I have also heard of an instance where a homeless person had been sleeping inside an organ chamber. I don't recall that there was any damage to the organ; however, it highlighted the lack of security and the need to ensure the case or chamber was locked and secure to prevent problems. I further suggest that the door lock(s) to access the organ be keyed separately from the locks in the rest of the building.

NOTE: If there are topics you would like to read about in future newsletters, or questions you would like to ask, please let me know, as I would be happy to write about them. I can be reached at rdrollin@gmail.com.

About the author:

David Rollin has worked with Jaeckel, Inc. organ builders since 1984 designing, building, maintaining and tuning pipe organs.



PUMP ORGAN AVAILABLE

We received information regarding a pump organ available for sale. The folks who own this organ live in the area and are downsizing. They hope to find a new home for this special organ. There is little information about the organ other than that it has been refinished and is in great shape.

For additional information or questions regarding costs associated with the organ, please contact the current owners, Jane or Arnie, directly. They can be reached by phone or email at:

Phone: 218-591-4322

Email: arnieandjanepro@gmail.com

PITHY QUOTES FROM BILL PERCY

Submitted by Jan Bilden

Windworks June 2012, Editor's Notes (B# and C) by Bill Percy

"I have been interested for some time in analogy, metaphor, figures of speech, as abbreviations and symbols, as short-cuts or suggestions of ideas that allow you to sketch rather than paint in a full concept. There are metaphors, figures of speech that are in common usage, "Rome wasn't built in a day", "You catch more flies with sugar than vinegar", that we feel like we've grown up with and don't need any thought to understand and apply and expand.. .

And, every once in a while, there is a figure of speech that appears on the horizon that is so striking it jerks me to a full stop, as if I absent-mindedly had shifted into "Park" while the car was still moving, the front of my brain colliding with the back of my forehead. Friday, May 25, 2012 I came across one of these in a movie review in the Minneapolis Star Tribune by Colin Covert.

The movie he was reviewing was "Headhunters", an adaptation of a Norwegian crime novel by Jo Nesbo. "This diabolical thriller never eases up", so reads the underline. Cover is discussing Morten Tyldum's directing: "His technically assured, diabolically entertaining film worked me over like a cathedral pipe organ. Awesome is too weak a word to describe it."

"Worked me over like a cathedral pipe organ"?? That gave me a brain cramp.

Then I thought about some comments Ray Johnston, canon musician at the Cathedral of St. Mark in Minneapolis, made when he was talking about the reinstallation of the organ there: "The organ is such a versatile instrument . . . It has massive dynamic range, so it has a real presence. It's one of those where the hair stands up on the back of your neck. It just sort of goes through your very body, really."

So, "worked me over like a cathedral pipe organ" might mean something like that? I gotta work on that a while longer."

What a phenomenal instrument we are privileged to hear, to see, to play. Take time to soak it up! Jan



2023 Lenten
Recitals

THE ARROWHEAD AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



ARROWHEAD
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

2023 LENTEN RECITALS

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

12:15 PM

AREA CHURCHES

The Back Page

FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! I enjoyed some time with family but also worked a great deal on crafting the art of snow shoveling!

During one of this winter's many blizzards, I was able to do a bit of reading and came across an internet article titled: "St. John's Abbey to train the next generation of organ builders" posted on the <https://aleteia.org> website. Coming across this brief piece was timely since I'd recently had a conversation with a pipe organ friend about this very topic. If you haven't read about it and are interested, you can find the article by doing a Google search for "Aleteia article on St John's pipe organ". There is also a PBS YouTube video available labeled, "Monastery invests in craftsmanship by expanding its hand-crafted pipe organ." This is from the *PBS Arts & Culture Series, Canvas*. A simple search on YouTube should get you to the video.

Learning about the plans at St. John's Abbey makes me hopeful and optimistic that the future of the pipe organ may be a bright one. All things that are pipe organ begin with the organ builder. And the maintenance of the pipe organ can only be sustained by those who are trained and skilled on the instrument. I sincerely hope the program at St. John's Abbey comes to fruition. Thank you to our local organ builder and repair persons extraordinaire! Your talents, craftsmanship and expertise are so appreciated!

Rosemary

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