

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!

There are so many exciting things happening for our organization. As you will see, the insert of our Strategic Planning initiative is included in this month's newsletter. As an organization, we need to reach out more often and in more places. So many of our events have been focused in the Duluth/Superior area. In the future, we will expand programming and support to better include the Northwest region of Wisconsin, up the North Shore of Minnesota, and into the Iron Range, where so many of our organists, supporters, and friends reside.

A notable development for us - the Board of Directors has voted to move forward in creating an investment portfolio to support our Scholarship Fund long-term. Our current Scholarship Fund holdings are around \$18,000 thanks to the generous and hard work of our Scholarship Committee and our fundraising efforts. Over time, we will find a suitable company to help us manage our investment and will be taking steps to create a sustainable future for our Scholarship Fund for all aspiring organists.

On another note, we hope to see you at each of our Lenten Recitals as well as at our upcoming "In Praise of Bach" at Pilgrim Congregational Church at the end of March.

-Brian

GOOD NEWS THIS ISSUE:

- A Note from Brian
- Membership Directory and New Members
- Positions Available & Other News
- The *Neumeister* Chorales, Rev. Dr. David Tryggestad
- Rank & File: Organ Essentials, Dave Rollin
- Re-cap of UWS Music Symposium, Rachael Kresha
- Events!
- Pithy Quotes from Bill Percy, Jan Bilden

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Velda Graham Bell

A new Arrowhead Chapter Membership Directory has recently been emailed to all members. If you didn't receive it and would like a copy, please contact Velda Bell (veldagb@hotmail.com or 218-393-4006) and she will be happy to send one to you.

Since that directory has been distributed, two new members have joined our chapter. Please welcome Gayle McClellan and Beth Varberg to our chapter! Gayle recently moved to Minnesota from Phoenix where she was a member of the Phoenix AGO Chapter. She currently lives in North Branch but will be moving to Duluth this spring/summer. Beth lives in Cohasset and is a current recipient of an adult Arrowhead Chapter Organ Scholarship. She studies organ with Brian Kapp. Welcome Gayle and Beth!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary (Duluth, MN) seeks a skilled musician to lead the music ministry for the parish and the Diocese of Duluth. The ideal candidate for the part-time Director of Music and Choirs will possess an advanced degree in Vocal Music, a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic Liturgy, and the ability to healthfully collaborate with other musicians (both professional and volunteer) in rehearsal and performance.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and references electronically or by mail to: Lauren Finnegan Business Manager Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, 2801 E 4th Street Duluth, MN 55812 or lauren.finnegan@duluthcatholic.org.

St. Michael's Catholic Church (Duluth, MN) is looking for a part-time music ministry director. The position includes planning music for all liturgical celebrations in the parish, funerals, weddings, and scheduling cantors for all Masses. The ability to play both piano and organ is preferred. If interested, please contact Denise at 218-525-1902 or by email at denise.connolly@duluthcatholic.org.

OTHER NEWS

Allen Anway

The Masonic Temple of Duluth at 4 West Second Street has a refurbished Kimball pipe organ available for practice by organists. Use of the organ is free, but the organization requests than one signs in with name and time.

A Mason paid for the organ repair about five years ago. The Organ Historical Society in their annual convention featured this organ on their visit to Duluth. The Kimball is a common 1920s type organ but larger and augmented with mixtures. Its tone is less theater organ and more general organ. The organ is on the balcony of their large auditorium.

To gain admittance contact Charlie Korsch at 218-349-9190.



NEUMEISTER CHORALES

Rev. Dr. David Tryggstad

After *Orgelbüchlein* of J.S. Bach, surely the church organist's "Bible," I consider the so-called *Neumeister Collection* of chorale preludes the most important set of organ chorales in my library. While many of you are young enough never to have lived without these lovely chorale settings, I had already "moved on" from my church music career and had ushered my family into the seminary in 1985, the year this collection of organ chorales, primarily by Bach, was discovered in the music library of Yale University.

This set organ of chorales was compiled by Johann Gottfried Neumeister (1757-1840) sometime after 1790, more than 40 years after Bach's death. The collection passed through various hands to end up in New Haven, Connecticut. From Neumeister, the chorales went to Christian Heinrich Rinck, a student of Bach pupil Johann Christian Kittel, and from Rinck to Lowell Mason, at whose death in 1873, the chorales were bequeathed to Yale University.

Noted Bach scholar Christoph Wolff states, "The attribution to J.S. Bach of 38 organ chorales [from this collection] is unequivocal and cannot . . . be considered questionable." The importance of these chorales can hardly be overstated, in my opinion, and I consider at least four criteria. First, they are early Bach, demonstrating his youthful handling of the chorale melodies. In some cases, unlike the chorales of *Orgelbüchlein* (*OB*), varieties of musical styles are evident within individual settings. In all, we can glimpse the inner workings of the young Bach's use of imitation and counterpoint. Second, 21 of the *Neumeister* chorales are based on chorales that Bach had intended for inclusion in *OB*, which consists of only 46 of the total 165 chorales he had predetermined to compose. While these 21 chorale settings are clearly not as sophisticated as those Bach would have written for *OB*, they help to "flesh out" its unfortunate vast void. In addition, eight chorales from the collection are settings of chorales Bach included in *OB*, affording us the opportunity not only to compare the two contrasting settings in each case, but to "pair" the two for liturgical or concert use. Third, these chorales are generally more accessible for the player, most (or even all) manageable on the manuals alone without pedal, though the use of the pedals is preferable for many. Fourth, these pieces have genuine intrinsic musical value on their own, some charming, some lovely, some snarly, some unrelenting: all worthy of our attention.

On the music rack of my piano at home, the *Neumeister* chorales sit alongside Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* (Book One), his *Inventions*, and the *Goldberg Variations*, and these chorales have become part of my almost-daily musical devotional time.

One of the *Neumeister* settings of a chorale that is also represented in *OB* is "Lamm Gottes, unschuldig." I will play them back-to-back, followed by the large three-stanza setting of the same chorale from Bach's so-called "Eighteen Chorales," as part of our Arrowhead Chapter of the AGO Lenten recital series on April 6 at the Cathedral of Our Lady in Duluth.



"Music is a mixed mathematical science that concerns the origins, attributes, and distinctions of sound, out of which a cultivated and lovely melody and harmony are made, so that God is honored and praised but mankind is moved to devotion, virtue, joy, and sorrow."

— Christoph Wolff, *Johann Sebastian Bach: The Learned Musician*

RANK AND FILE: ORGAN ESSENTIALS

Dave Rollin

Acoustics continued.

In discussing acoustics, some specific examples might be useful. I have heard musicians praise the live acoustics of Sacred Heart Music Center, Duluth, MN. A lute on stage can be heard anywhere in the room. The raised platform allows line-of-sight between the instrument and the listener, so the sound doesn't get absorbed along the way. The hard surfaced floor and walls facilitate early reflections that reinforce the sound but aren't so distant that the reflected sound is delayed and causes confusion. The reflections from the walls and high ceiling are diffused but don't dominate, so it gives a reverberant "bloom" without a distinct echo. The organ in the back balcony has the vaulted plaster ceiling to reflect the sound and carry it throughout the room. It is also on the central axis of the room, so the direct sound doesn't need to make turns before reaching the audience. This gives more clarity compared to organs installed in chambers which speak sideways into the chancel, a common position in many churches. But I have also heard spoken word there where the speaker talked too fast and softly, which allowed the reverberation to confuse the direct sound, which resulted in a loss of intelligibility. There is a skill to speaking unamplified in such a space. One must speak a bit slower and be conscious of enunciation. You may have seen canopies above the raised pulpits in old European churches. The pulpits were elevated so there was "line of sight" from the preacher to the ears of the listeners. The canopies (called testers) provided immediate reflection of the sound, so it was reinforced and prevented the later reflections from dominating. These testers function similarly to band shells, or the reflective "clouds" suspended above the stage in some concert halls. As an aside, I understand that Gregorian Chant originated in the reverberant cathedrals of Europe as a way for the words of the Mass to be carried by the acoustic but still remain intelligible.

Now a contrasting example. I remember hearing an organ concert at Pilgrim UCC, Duluth, MN not long after the Jaeckel organ was installed there. The organ sound seemed to launch off the balcony but die into the thick carpeting that existed at the time. The direct sound was strong and clear; however, there was almost no reverberation to surround it. I was told the original floor was wood and enhanced the Matinee Musicale performances held there at that time. When a couple of recordings of the Jaeckel organ were made, some plywood was laid over the carpeting to allow for more reverberation. It helped the higher frequencies; however low frequencies require more massive material to be effective.

Jaeckel, Inc. built an organ for First Presbyterian, Portland, Oregon with a unique configuration to deal with a challenging acoustic. The sanctuary is visually stunning with elaborate woodwork. (Look up Opus 37 in the jaeckelorgans.com site for a photo). The ceiling has many beams, ribs and gaps between boards that absorb a lot of sound. There are several dormers that also trap or dissipate sound and a balcony that wraps around three sides of the nave. The acoustic is very dry. The organ and choir are in a balcony above the pulpit at the front of the room. The lower case of the organ forms a "bandshell" behind and above the choir, similar to the main organ at First Lutheran, Duluth, MN. This helps direct the choir sound out into the room. A choir member commented that the choir members could hear themselves for the first time, since before the organ was installed there was no nearby sound reflecting surface. The swell division is just above the choir. There is grill cloth in parts of the "band shell" above the choir so they can hear that division. The positive division is on the balcony rail, so its sound is line-of-sight to underneath the side and back balconies. Finally, a Lutheran church in Rice Lake, WI was planning a new building and consulted Dan Jaeckel. The congregation is not large and didn't need a large sanctuary. At Dan's suggestion, the sanctuary roof was made higher than originally planned to allow more reverberation for a more supportive acoustic for the organ and congregational singing.

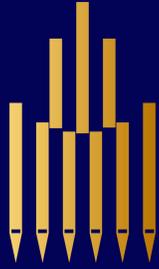
About the author: David Rollin has worked with Jaeckel, Inc. organ builders since 1984, designing, building, maintaining and tuning pipe organs.



SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM AT UWS

Rachael Kresha

The University of Wisconsin-Superior hosted its first Sacred Music Symposium on January 15 of 2022. The event hosted four workshop style lectures focusing on the Liturgical Year led by Rachael Kresha, Psalmody with David Tryggsted, Liturgy with Brian Kapp, and Hymnody with Velda Bell. It was my hope as the Professor of Organ at UWS to give our young emerging organists a taste of the breadth and scope of all the elements of service playing that they would need to learn. It was refreshing as a seasoned church organist to get new ideas or be reminded of things that had slipped from the weekly "things to consider" radar. The recital at the end of the event was canceled due to COVID disruptions. Despite the spike of the Omicron variant in our area preventing many of our high school and college students from attending due to illness, we hosted a large group in person. In addition to the excellent content and presenters, there was ample time for networking, eating, and just catching up with friends and colleagues. Carol Donahue reported that the event recruited three new high school students interested in getting information about our AGO Organ Scholarship program. The event also caught the attention of prominent organ educators in the United States who applauded our efforts and encouraged me to "keep it going!" Stayed tuned for information about the Sacred Music Symposium held on Saturday, January 28, 2023.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THE 2022 ARROWHEAD AGO WEDNESDAY LENTEN RECITAL SCHEDULE

ALL RECITALS BEGIN 12:15 PM

MARCH 9

VELDA GRAHAM BELL, ORGAN
SHELLEY GRUSKIN, RECORDER, REBECCA PETERSON, CELLO
& EMMA RUSTAN, VOCALS/GUITAR
First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Pkwy, Duluth

MARCH 16

KAREN HANSON SANDE, ORGAN
& KRISTIN SANDE, VIOLIN
First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior St, Duluth

MARCH 23

ROSEMARY GUINEY, ORGAN
& AUSTIN ENGELHARDT, BARITONE & VIOLIN
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 227 3rd St, Two Harbors

MARCH 30

RACHAEL KRESHA, ORGAN
Cathedral of Christ the King, 1410 Baxter Ave, Superior

APRIL 6

DAVID TRYGGESTAD, ORGAN
& JENNIFER CAMPBELL, SOPRANO
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary, 2801 E 4th St, Duluth

A Raffle item for the Lenten Recital Series is a dinner for six, prepared by "Room at the Table", with Chef Paul Sapyta and Kevin Peterson.

The dinner will be the winner's choice of date, time, and menu item to be delivered and served at the winner's convenience.

The Lenten Raffle tickets are \$10.00 each. Tickets will be available at each of the recitals.

The drawing will occur at the last Lenten Recital, April 6 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Good will offering. Proceeds of which will go to the Arrowhead AGO scholarship fund. Masks required.

FESTIVAL OF NORDIC MUSIC

MAY 13-15, 2022

Karen Hanson Sande

James Hicks, organist, Melanie Ohnstad, organist, Kristina Lantz, violinist, Erika Lantz, vocalist and Arna Rennan, folk musician will present traditional and new music from the Nordic countries in a series of programs.

FRIDAY MAY 13, 7:00 PM

James D. Hicks will perform a solo recital on the Jaeckel organ at First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior St, Duluth.

SATURDAY MAY 14, 9:30 AM, CHECK-IN 10:00 AM, WORKSHOP 11:45 AM, LUNCH

James Hicks will lead a workshop introducing accessible Nordic music for AGO members and others, followed by lunch. First Lutheran Church hosts.

SUNDAY MAY 15, 3:00 PM

All of our guest performers will present a varied program at Sacred Heart Music Center (201 W. 4th St., Duluth) with hospitality and displays by local Nordic groups.

James Hicks, formerly music director at The Presbyterian Church, Morristown NJ, has now recorded 10 CDs titled Nordic Journey on the ProOrgano label. He has visited all of the Nordic countries, building relationships and commissioning new music from contemporary composers. Melanie Ohnstad, recently retired as Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, and collaborates with violinist Kristina Lantz to perform Nordic music accompanied on organ and piano. Arna Rennan is a well-known local folk musician who has traveled widely and studied Nordic folk music traditions.

FACULTY RECITAL AT UWS RACHAEL KRESHA

UNIVERSITY RECITAL SERIES

Webb Recital Hall, Holden Fine Arts Building, Campus of University of Superior- Wisconsin

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022, 7:30 PM

The program highlights French, German, and American music. It also features prominent female artist Jeanne Demessieux, African American composers, Florence Price and David Hurd, and music by Jehan Alain, Camille Saint-Saëns, Matthias Weckman, and J.S. Bach.

Tickets: Adults: \$15.00 Seniors: \$12.00 Students: \$12.00

FROM THE ARCHIVES: PITHY QUOTES FROM BILL PERCY

Jan Bilden

I live outside of the Duluth area near Grand Rapids, so I have not always been able to attend AGO functions. The newsletter has kept me in touch, and Bill Percy's unique take on events was one of the reasons that I joined. I've even socked away old newsletters so will share some of his comments occasionally.

"And then, of course, your hard working, never sleeping, always alert, on-top-of-everything board met in August to consider, mull over, ponder, ruminate and ambivalate over the affairs of the organization, the state and the world. Program Committee chairs reviewed upcoming plans for the season; we discovered there was no money allocated for publicity for programming; the Esteemed Dean will have speaks with THE HONORABLE ANWAY about this. Mumbling discussion about getting an up-to-date membership list and following up on those moved, seconded, approved and blessed with Holy Water the final draft of the Operating Procedures and will ship this puppy off to the Regional Counselor." Bill Percy, October, 2016.

The Back Page

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosemary Guiney

Greetings!

We have a full schedule of events coming up. I hope everyone has their calendar marked to attend these awesome events!

Those who work on these events, both past and present, thank you! The Arrowhead AGO is successful because of the folks, both past and present, who volunteer their time and energy to help sustain the AGO.

If there are members who would like to begin volunteering this is a great time to help out! Please contact us at info@arrowheadago.com.

Pax tibi,

Rosemary



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