Dean’s Column

Legacy
Paul Westermeyer

When I drove back from the Liturgical Institute at Valparaiso University in Indiana this year, I allowed enough time to make two stops. The first was at Elmhurst College in Illinois. Next to the main chapel at Elmhurst is a tiny prayer chapel. About forty years ago, when Naomi Rowley and I were teaching there, we helped the College procure a very small one-manual and pedal Brombaugh, which is snuggled nicely into the corner of the prayer chapel. From time to time I have stopped to see how it is doing. This time, once again, it was the same as usual. It functions perfectly, as if John Brombaugh had just installed it yesterday. I wrote to David Christiansen who teaches organ at Elmhurst now and asked about it. He said he loves the organ, then added, “…a good organ can hold its own. If you’re ever in the northwest suburbs, stop by St. Andrews, Park Ridge – you’d enjoy our Dobson.”

The second stop was at Guardian Angels Church in Oakdale soon after I crossed into Minnesota from Wisconsin. I’ve seen the nineteenth-century building from Interstate 94 since I moved to Minnesota and have always wanted to stop and go inside. It was after 5:00 when I got there, and the church was locked. The large new church, not visible from the highway, was open, however, and the sexton was there. She had already locked the old church, but graciously let me in to have a look. I was surprised to find it refurbished as an attractive small chapel in modern dress, but even more surprised to find a Van Daalen there. After I got home I made some inquiries and found that the organ had belonged to Diana Lee Lucker.

Organs like these that do not normally receive a lot of publicity dot the landscape. They include some fine instruments that have been built in our lifetimes and for which some of us are responsible in larger and smaller ways. Unless they are destroyed by neglect, natural disasters, fires, or vandalism, they will still be making delightful sounds long after we are gone. We are bequeathing a serious ecological crisis to those who follow us, as Pope Francis reminds us in his recent encyclical letter Laudato Si’ (which we should note takes its title from his namesake’s canticle!). I do not mean to minimize that reality, but this also must be said: if the planet survives, we are bequeathing to our children’s children and beyond some wonderful treasures, like these organs.

Though easy to overlook, this is no small thing. The finest craft that our ancestors have given us, as in organs they built, stimulates our creativity and evokes gratitude. Our ancestors also did some quite awful things, just as we do. We learn from them too. Our

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responsibility, however, is not to work at the horrors, but together to craft the gifts we have been given as well as we can.

These organs point to that craft and artistry in many ways. They are fundamentally musical instruments, of course, but they are much more. They pull together careful study, history, theory, math, technology, woodwork, metalwork, physical art, sound, piety, devotion, vocation, and craft that result in an organ, which I have heard referred to as “a city of love that works together.” Amidst all that is less than salutary, we can ponder and give thanks for such remarkable treasures – as will those who follow us.

TCAGO Election Results
Laura Edman, 2016 Nominating Committee Chair
The results of the TCAGO 2016 elections are as follows:

- Dean - Paul Westermeyer
- Sub-Dean - David Jenkins
- Treasurer - David Geslin
- Secretary - Dee Ann Crossley
- Class of 2019
  - Kalle Ackerman
  - David Fienen
  - Nancy Lancaster

Thank you to these guild members for agreeing to serve TCAGO in this way. There are other ways to contribute to the work of the guild. Check out the committees on the website and contact the committee chair if you are interested in joining a specific committee.

J Michael Barone Musings on Comments by William Percy
William G. Percy, newsletter ‘editorializer’ for the AGO Arrowhead Chapter in Duluth, offered these thoughts, worthy of further pondering:

“For a number of years, particularly during the yawning weeks of Pentecost, or any other time of year not otherwise confined by the liturgical needs of Advent/Christmas/Passiontide/Easter, etc., I have resorted to picking a composer-of-the-month and pulling as much music from him/her as possible to cover preludes, postludes, offertoires and such-like. So, J.S. Bach is, of course, one obvious choice, as is Buxtehude, Rheinberger, all the French guys, the English and Canadian guys and gals, Flor Peeters, Gerhard Krapf, Wilbur Held, Raymond Haan, Charles Callahan (among the Americans), each of whom have written scores of music that can be put into a quasi-educational Sunday morning program with, of course, bulletin notes that tell the congregation what you are doing. (What? You don’t write bulletin notes about the music for your congregation? How are they supposed to know what sense or purpose to make of what you are playing? Why are you playing what you are playing?)

“Sorry, this is how my attitude creeps out of the slightest leak in the seal! Even after a hundred years in the business (or so it sometimes seems), I continue to harbor the delusion that we have a purpose beyond killing time, driving people through hymns, and providing traveling music while other things are happening during the service. Yes, probably I need to have my medications re-checked and adjusted, or a swift kick in the head to bring me to my senses, but education is part of our job, it seems to me, and I know from experience that people actually do respond when treated as intelligent consumers/listeners. So, try something different for a change, take any opportunity to push yourself in a different direction, and bring your congregation along with you. You might even have fun.”

Michael Barone further observes:
For quite a number of years, I have been delighted (and astonished) by the artful industriousness of one of our colleagues, Professor Stephen Self of Bethel University. Twice a year, without fail, he has put his best feet forward on the Blackinton pipe organ in Benson Great Hall while taking his audience on a
journey of discovery through repertoire often rarely performed or, more often, totally unfamiliar hereabouts.

In April we were introduced to scores by Jacques Charpentier and Sven David Sandström. Last October included pieces by Gunnar Idenstam and Paul de Maleingreau. The previous spring a new score by John McCabe, and in previous years works by Judith Bingham, Jacobus Kloppers, Peter Aston, Samuel Adler, Paul Ayres and Kjell Mørk Karlsen were programmed.

And along the way Stephen accompanies many student, faculty, and collegial musicians, and has earned a Juris Doctor (law degree) and is now working on a BS in physics. There’s no moss on his toes! Perhaps his example can encourage a few other of us to be a bit more out there – working on the challenge of sharing with a larger public “so much music,” even with “so little time.” Let’s not be lazy.

West Metro
Summer Organ Concert Series

Thursdays, June 16 – August 18, 12:10 p.m.
You are invited to hear some of the finest, most gifted organists in the upper Midwest. Each Thursday, beginning June 16, and running through August 18, well-known musical artists from the west metro area of the Twin Cities will be sharing their talents in a series of free mini-concerts during the noon time lunch hour (12:10 to 12:50 p.m.).

You are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch if you like, and sit back and listen to the beautiful sounds of skilled musicians. The concerts will normally be hosted at the site of the organist scheduled to play that week.

This series was developed through Zion Lutheran Church in Hopkins, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its Van Daalen tracker organ. The two-manual and pedal tracker pipe organ was built by the Van Daalen Organ Company (Jan Van Daalen) after having been shipped here from the Netherlands. It consists of 1740 pipes, which comprise 36 ranks, controlled by 24 stops. Kent Engel, organist at Zion from 1971 until his untimely death in 1985, was instrumental in getting the organ to Zion and gave its dedicatory recital on June 6, 1976.

June 16, Brice Petersen
Zion Lutheran Church
241 Fifth Avenue N., Hopkins
http://zionhopkins1.publishpath.com

June 23 - Lorna Wolthoff
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina
http://www.normluth.org

June 30 - Mark Fideldy
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
715 Minnetonka Mills Road, Hopkins
https://sites.google.com/site/hopkinsgethsemanechurch/home

July 7 - Andrew Jacob
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina

July 14 - Dan Oie
Redeemer Lutheran Church
115 Wayzata Blvd. W., Wayzata
http://redeemerwayzata.org

July 21 - Brice Petersen & Friends
Zion Lutheran Church
241 Fifth Avenue N., Hopkins

July 28 - Joseph Trucano
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
715 Minnetonka Mills Road, Hopkins

August 4 - Jack Swanson (Hymn Sing)
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina

August 11 - James Hild
All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka
http://allsaintsmtka.org

August 18 - Various Organists
Zion Lutheran Church
241 Fifth Avenue N., Hopkins
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Wednesdays, July 6 – August 10, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their tenth season this summer. Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses. For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email rkcollman@msn.com

July 6 - Richard F. Collman (organ) and David K. Miller (piano). Music by Buxtehude and Denis Bedard (Duet Suite). 1993 Gabriel Kney tracker, 27 ranks, Steinway piano.
Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 South Maple Street, Northfield
http://www.northfieldumc.org

July 13 - Rosalie Alcoser, (Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Red Wing). Music of Bach, Travis, Langlais.
Johnson & Son/Schlicker/Rutz, 3 manuals, 53 ranks.
First United Church of Christ
300 Union Street, Northfield
http://firstucc.org

July 20 - Catherine Rodland and Jamie Bobb, (Professors of Organ and Church Music, St. Olaf College), during the Music and Theology Conference. 2006 Holtkamp Organ, 3 manuals, 90 ranks.
Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield
http://wp.stolaf.edu/ministry/chapel/

July 27 - Kraig Windschitl (Principal Organist Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and Organist/Carilloneur at Breck School, Minneapolis). 1971 Holtkamp Organ, 3 manuals, 55 ranks.
Music & Drama Center, Carleton College
110 Winona St. N., Northfield

Skinner Chapel, Carleton College
405 First Street E., Northfield
https://apps.carleton.edu/admissions/locations/skinner_chapel/

August 10 - David Lim, (Student, Gustavus Adolphus College). Music of Bruhns, Bach, and Liszt.
1974 Dobson tracker, 2 manual, 26 ranks.
St. John’s Lutheran Church
500 Third Street West, Northfield
http://stjohnsnorthfield.org

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Calendar of Events

June
Saturday, June 4, 4:00 p.m.
Baroque Orchestral Masterpieces
Bach Tage Orchestra
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue S., Minneapolis

Sunday, June 5, 4:00 p.m.
Bach Cantata 76
Conference participants and Bach Tage Orchestra
Kathy Romey, conductor;
David Cherwien, organist
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue S., Minneapolis

Monday, June 13 - Friday, June 17
The Church Musicians Workshop
Nashotah House Theological Seminary
Nashotah, Wisconsin

Thursday, June 16, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Brice Petersen, organist
Zion Lutheran Church
241 Fifth Avenue N., Hopkins

Thursday, June 23, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Lorna Wolthoff, organist
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina

Sunday, June 26 - Friday, July 1
Cedar Valley POE
Wartburg College
Waverly, Iowa

July
Wednesday, July 6, 12:15 p.m.
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals
Richard Collman, organist; David Miller, pianist
Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple Street, Northfield

Thursday, July 7, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Andrew Jacob, organist
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina

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July
Wednesday, July 6, 12:15 p.m.
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals
Richard Collman, organist; David Miller, pianist
Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple Street, Northfield

Thursday, July 7, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Andrew Jacob, organist
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina
Wednesday, July 13, 12:15 p.m.
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals
Rosalie Alcoser, organist
First United Church of Christ
300 Union Street, Northfield

Thursday, July 14, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Dan Oie, organist
Redeemer Lutheran Church
115 W. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

Wednesday, July 20, 12:15 p.m.
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals
Catherine Rodland, Jamie Bobb, organists
Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield

Thursday, July 21, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Brice Petersen & Friends
Zion Lutheran Church
241 Fifth Avenue N., Hopkins

Wednesday, August 3, 12:15 p.m.
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals
Stephen May, organist
Skinner Chapel, Carleton College
405 First Street E., Northfield

Thursday, August 4, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Jack Swanson (Hymn Sing)
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Road, Edina

Wednesday, August 10, 12:15 p.m.
Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals
David Lim, organist
St. John’s Lutheran Church
500 Third Street W., Northfield

Thursday, August 11, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
James Hild, organist
All Saints Lutheran Church
15915 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka

Thursday, August 18, 12:10 p.m.
West Metro Summer Organ Concert Series
Various organists
Zion Lutheran Church
241 Fifth Avenue N., Hopkins

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Information for Pipenotes should be received no later than the
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Materials may be sent to Merritt Nequette, editor.

Letters to the Editor
Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome.
Mail letters to Merritt Nequette.

Pipedreams
For a listing of organ events statewide, access the Pipedreams
Organ Calendar. For both on-air and website listings of organ-
related activities, please send information to Michael Barone,
or to Pipedreams Calendar, 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

MPR
Classical Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your
classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar.

On the top bar of the general MPR web page, click on
“Events,” then “Events Calendar,” then “Classical Music.” How-
ever, if you find yourself on the Classical MPR main page, click
on “More,” then “Events,” then “Classical Music.”

In either case, once on the page that lists Classical Music
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you should find an additional prompt for “Submit Event.” Fill in
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Note that this MPR Calendar information will reach a dif-
f erent audience than that submitted to Barone for posting on the
TCAGO/Pipedreams calendar pages. Both are free, the one a self-
service feature and a separate vehicle by which you can let people
(including the Classical MPR program hosts) know about your
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By all means, continue to send information directly to
Michael Barone too!!

We also encourage you to regularly request organ selections
on the “Friday Favorites” show with Steven Staruch. Encourage
and promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR’s pro-
gr amming!

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