



OCTOBER, 2020, VOL. 1

Windworks

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARROWHEAD CHAPTER OF THE AGO
WHERE THE PIPE ORGAN IS CELEBRATED



INTRODUCING "ORGAN-IC", THE 5-MINUTE VIDEO SERIES

BRIAN KAPP

In trying to find normalcy in the middle of a pandemic, I often fall short of my goal. I crave gathering and connecting with others on a normal day without a pandemic looming outside my door. Community - that's what I miss.

Several weeks ago, in a communications committee meeting, we were trying to find something to do for our membership while expanding our reach to others in the area and offering some sort of sense of community. Long story, short, we came up with this plan.

Arrowhead AGO is proud to announce a new monthly video series entitled, Organ-ic. Each month we will share a video of an organ and organist of our area with interesting history and specifications offered by one of our own, Sam Black. Our first video will be of Dr. Tom Hamilton at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior, WI playing the new William and Alice Stack organ. The following months will feature Duluth organists Karen Sande and Velda Bell at First Lutheran and First United Methodist, respectively. The video will be posted on YouTube, Facebook, and our Website toward the beginning of each month with a link to donate to our chapter so we can continue to bring programming and education to all who cross our path.

I would like to thank Sam Black, Rosemary Guiney, Sam Gray, and Karen Sande for their invaluable help and work to bring this to fruition. We hope to expand this format to include longer recitals and concerts in the future. Keep an eye out and enjoy!

Brian Kapp, Dean

GOOD NEWS THIS ISSUE:

- *New 5-minute video concerts via facebook, website and youtube*
- *What's new with our Scholarship Students*
- *Tribute to Norma Stevlingson*
- *Auf Wiedersehenn to Tom Hamilton*
- *Sam Black's historical spotlight on the Christ The King Pipe Organ*
- *Note from the Editor*



WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

Carol Donahue

Since Covid-19, our organ scholarship students: Agnes Barthel, Anna Carlson, Lillian Kimber, Luke Sailstad, Benjamin Hintzman, Emelyn and Grace Beaster, Sarah Griecar, and Kylin Hahn, have decided to continue lessons or have postponed lessons to a later time, when things are more stable. We also have 2 students, Luke Sailstad and Benjamin Hintzman, who have completed the organ scholarship program and are enrolled in music, studying organ.

Covid-19 has been a dilemma for everyone. But it has also precipitated new thinking about how we can continue our Student Organ Scholarship Fund for our Arrowhead Chapter. So, the chapter's Fundraising and Development committee has prepared grant proposals for two Duluth community organizations. We are currently waiting for their response to help fund this scholarship program. We are preparing three ways for which our Arrowhead Chapter will be able to participate in donating to our Organ Student Scholarship Fund. The first, celebrate your birthday by making a donation of any amount to the fund.

Multiply this donation by setting up a fundraiser through your Facebook page. Set a goal of \$250 or \$500 to start the student scholarship fund on Facebook, then others are invited to join in.

Secondly, our Arrowhead Chapter will sponsor a Virtual Organ Concert of our own members. Those viewing, members and the public, can donate to the student scholarship fund.

Lastly, plans are being made for Holiday Member Appeal, which may coincide with the Virtual Organ concert. Our Arrowhead Chapter Newsletter will keep you informed about all up-coming events. Our Scholarship/Education/Development committee encourages you to participate in supporting our young student organists using the above opportunities: Birthday Celebrations, Virtual Organ Concerts, and Holiday Member Appeal. If you have suggestions or ideas be sure to let this committee know.

Committee Members: Carol Donahue, Rachael Kresha, Linda Turpening, Jeff Urbaniak

AUF WIEDERSEHEN TO TOM HAMILTON

David Tryggstad

We are bereft! Dear Tom is leaving us after more than seven years in the Twin Ports. It seems like much longer, given the many and various ways Tom has engaged in our communities and our lives. Tom is the embodiment of a pastoral musician. It is not only his profession it is his vocation—it is who he is.

In Tom's relatively brief time in our midst, Tom has served as Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Duluth, Senior Lecturer of Organ at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, and Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior and St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Duluth. Tom has also been seen at the organ and harpsichord with the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra. He has been a vital member of the Friends of the Fegemake Organ at Sacred Heart Music Center in Duluth. And he has served as an officer for the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

I am personally bereft because Tom and I have crossed paths at different times in several places. We both served as Music Director at churches in Eau Claire, Wisconsin; we were students at Luther Seminary in St. Paul; we were both at the University of Iowa, studying with the same organ teacher; and we are both rostered leaders with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Most importantly, we are friends.

Godspeed, dear colleague, and friend.

WE REMEMBER NORMA STEVLINGSON

Sam Gray

As a freshman year student at the University of Wisconsin-Superior in the fall ten years ago, I had been warned by students of the sophomore class that the experience of being taught by Dr. Norma Stevlingson could be difficult as she was one of the toughest professors at UWS. She often was not easy to please and held everyone to a professional high standard. Little did I know that my life's journey would be forever changed by the instructor who entered my life the first day of Freshman Music Theory.

I have always been head over heels with the majestic sound and movement imposed by pipe organs. I was inspired by my grandmother who passed away early in my life. When I was in high-school I took a few lessons on the instrument but was more inspired by listening than playing. In a way, Norma would become like a grandmother to me and to many other students as well.

As a freshman in college, I often enthused about the instrument during my beginning music theory class, as Norma, scrutinously looked over my part-writing examples. Often, though, I was shy about my interest in studying the pipe organ. One day, I had a conversation with a close friend and explained the love that I had for the instrument and they reacted, "Are you kidding me!" explaining how Norma was the national expert on French organ music, listing off her biography and urging me to take lessons with her. The next day, I asked Norma, after class, about starting lessons the following semester. I will forever remember the small smile she made as I asked and saw the rough exterior of "a tough as nails" freshman Music Theory professor immediately wear away. I did not know when she invited me into her office to ask me about my story and how I came to endearing and inspirational

Among her students, she was affectionately would often scoff at how ridiculous behave and then remind us how easy we reached beyond just being a professor. we thought of as the matriarch of our Music the next three years, I found myself more learned to love and need. I was playing an Norma made my dream a reality. The pipe play, but a way of connecting with others.



love the pipe organ, that it would lead to an or/student relationship. called, "Sister Norma", per her request, as she American college students would occasionally had it. She was a beloved character and She ended up warming our hearts; someone Department. As I took lessons with her over alive and focused, doing something that I instrument I had often dreamt about playing. organ became something that I could not only

1941-2020

Norma opened doors for countless students and for people in her community. Whether it was in her role as a Professor at UWS, or serving on the board of the Douglas County Animal Rescue Foundation, or as Dean of our Arrowhead AGO chapter, Norma made an impact whenever and wherever she went. She made gracious but giant waves in the French Organist community translating the late Marie-Claire Alain's book on her brother's Organ works to English.

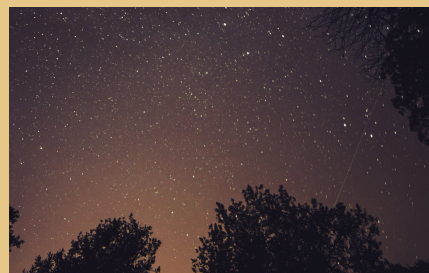
She maintained a deep connection to France throughout her life. Norma was the first full-time American student of Marie-Claire Alain. She has been known the world over as a recognized authority of French organ music, particularly that of Jehan Alain whose "Litanies" might not be as popular or often-played had it not been for Norma's career and connections in the United States. I cannot remember every one of the vast amount of stories about France that would side-track our organ lessons, often going beyond their scheduled hour. There were many. She would continuously explain and recite experiences with French composers she had dined with or share her hilarious opinion of French politics. Her heart was inspired and carried with it the spirit of French culture.

What makes a great teacher is someone whose students simply respect them. A great teacher is someone who holds you up to a high standard, knowing that you can achieve it, when you doubt yourself. In doing so, you realize just how high they lift you up and help you to aspire to be the best you can be. In this, Norma made a tremendous impact on the hundreds of students over her 40-year career as a professor. Her students have lost one of, if not their greatest mentor. May she find the peace and grace in resting with our Lord.

-Samuel Gray B.M.E. - University of Wisconsin - Superior, Class of 2015
Organist - Pilgrim Lutheran Church - Superior, Wisconsin

*Listen, and for
organ music thou
wilt ever, as of old,
hear the Morning
Stars sing together.*

Thomas Carlyle





Dr. Thomas Hamilton at the
Cathedral Organ
Photo credit: Christ the King
Cathedral FB page

THE WILLIAM AND ALICE STACK HERITAGE PIPE ORGAN

SAM BLACK

SEBASTIAN GLÜCK, ORGANBUILDER, NEW YORK CITY

CHRIST THE KING CATHEDRAL, SUPERIOR, WI

2018 - 2019 INSTALLATION

When I first played an event at Christ the King Cathedral, there was a Baldwin instrument with speakers up in the loft. After major renovation of the Cathedral some years later, a small, self-contained, pipe organ was rolled into place. The new gallery and chamber places for a larger collection of pipes had to wait until 2018 to get seriously addressed. By the fall of 2019, the first major pipe organ at Christ the King since its inception in 1927 was ready for action. You can revisit the March 2020 of TAO for a summary with photos by S. Glück himself.

In his very creative manner, Sebastian Glück, from NYC, had a three manual organ close at hand, due to a cancelled installation in the recent past. The console, cabinetry, and pipes were unloaded by lots of parishioners into the cathedral for assembly. The church Facebook has many of these pictures to view. The pipes are lovely to look at, the organist can see and hear them quite well, and the console can be moved around for recital, concert, and liturgical demands.

There are 37 ranks of pipes involved, and many of these were refurbished and polished from a variety of instruments in the Glück inventory. Considerable sharing goes across the three manuals and pedal division, which adds to the flexibility of the instrument.

The keyboard action is very responsive, and the Swell division is fully under expression. The overall effect of the Principal chorus is quite pleasing, even though the Open Diapason on the Swell is the most distinctive. The Dulciana on the Positiv is luscious by itself, and combines well with softer stops on the other manuals. The Clarinet on the Positiv is rich from top to bottom, and has been extended to be a shared part of the Pedal division as well. This is a wonderfully sonorous Pedal reed which can be used without overpowering the energy of the manuals.

This is all meant to tease you. Thomas Hamilton has been playing services regularly, as the Cathedral modestly reopens Mass to congregants. Our first Internet sampling of this next several months will feature Tom sharing a few of the delightful sounds of this newest addition to the Twin Ports pipe organ inventory.



Photo credit from the March 2020 edition of *"The American Organist"*



The Back Page

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosemary Guiney

Hello, everyone!

I am the music director and organist at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Two Harbors, MN. And I am very honored to be appointed as the interim sub-dean for the Arrowhead AGO.

We have some exciting things in process this upcoming year! To start things off, we will be featuring the 5-minute concert series that Brian wrote about in his article. It is so awesome that many folks will now have the opportunity to learn about and experience the beautiful organs in our region and to hear such amazing talent thru our facebook page, website and youtube channel.

Secondly, we are introducing this first edition of the newly-formatted "Windworks" newsletter. It will continue to be mailed on a monthly basis and available also on www.arrowheadago.com.

I want to say thank you to all who have been so gracious thus far, especially Dr. Hamilton (my pipe organ instructor and friend), and my new AGO friends, Brian Kapp and Sam Gray.

I look forward to meeting all the Arrowhead AGO members in person someday. In the meantime, please forward any music news, any "arts" events going on in the area, ideas or comments you may have about the newsletter to my email address: rosemary.guiney@duluthcatholic.org.

Pax Tibi,

Rosemary

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Thank you!

