



# Prairie Pippings

The Monthly Newsletter of SDAGO

## The Mission of SDAGO is...

*to bring the excitement and inspiration of the organ and its music to children and adults through events of education, entertainment and discovery.*

### South Dakota Chapter The American Guild of Organists

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## SDAGO's OrgelKids Organ Makes Sioux Falls Debut

Jared Ostermann recently took the OrgelKids instrument for a demonstration at the Saint Margaret's Fellowship Co-Op (the Sioux Falls area Catholic homeschool organization). Two presentations were given: one for around 12 children in the 3rd-8th grade class, and one for the kindergarten-2nd grade group. The older kids learned about the basic mechanics of an organ, and helped assemble the trackers and pipework before taking turns working the bellows and playing the keyboards. The younger group got a shorter version of the mechanical presentation, and also had a chance to play and pump the bellows.

The children were remarkably engaged in the experience, particularly the hands-on nature of constructing and working the instrument. They had many questions throughout, and the older children were able (on their own) to puzzle out the main challenges involved in organ construction - such as creating and storing air, and directing air to the proper pipe. Overall, this was an enjoyable experience and hopefully a sign of many good things to come with this new demonstration instrument.



## SDAGO's OrgelKids Project Update

SDAGO's OrgelKids Planning Team held its second meeting on November 4. The kit has now been used in two settings: last summer at the International Music Camp in North Dakota and recently at a homeschool group in Sioux Falls. Both were very successful and have yielded information that will help us move forward and prepare documentation for future use.

The team is researching established standards used in our schools for curriculum planning and developing suggested activities based on those standards. They are also establishing contacts in the various eastern South Dakota education communities to help get the word out and to gain insights from experienced educators. That includes connecting with various associations of educators and offering materials for their journals as well as offering to appear at their gatherings for demonstrations of the OrgelKids instrument and possible activities.

The team noted that there are possibilities here beyond music classes – that the experience demonstrates general science concepts including the physics of sound. The possibilities of displays at science centers such as The Washington Pavilion and the Children's Museum in Brookings will be a part of future discussions.

Team members are Marilyn Schempp, Jared Ostermann, Matthew Tylutki, Elizabeth Soladay, Zachary Brockhoff and Jack Mohlenhoff.

## SDAGO Academy — A Teacher's Perspective

Marilyn Schempp



The  
South Dakota  
American  
Guild of  
Organists  
Academy

Since its establishment in 1987, the SDAGO Academy has awarded nearly 100 scholarships to young musicians for beginning organ study. I am excited to say that I have had the opportunity to teach a number of those students over the years. We have had a variety of ages and abilities that we have introduced to the organ through our Academy program—some in junior high and others in high school. I've also been fortunate to have access to different styles of instruments to share with them, primarily the three manual Schlicker at Our Savior's, the three manual Nordlie tracker at the Augustana chapel and the little two manual Schlicker unit organ in the chapel at Our Savior's. We typically meet once every third or fourth week and since students are required to continue their piano studies, it really is a very basic introduction to the organ. During their early studies we talk about the different stops, do an organ crawl to see what the organ looks like inside, start to get their feet going through pedal exercises, and begin some early level organ repertoire. In the spring of the scholarship year, students perform a piece or two at a recital. Often-times, this is yet another organ different from the one they have been using for lessons. So they really do begin to understand that organs are like people—often very different from each other. Even if the students do not continue studying the organ, we hope that in the future they will become supporters of organ music in our churches and other performance venues.

I also have enjoyed teaching at the Pipe Organ Encounter camps that we have offered many times through our chapter. It is so much fun to see how quickly these young organists bond through their common interest in the organ. At the POEs, students also come with varying abilities and ages. We have had students as young as fifth grade and even students who are in college. Their experiences can be as diverse as never touching an organ to some who are already playing regularly in a church setting. Some of these young people that have continued their organ study—some majoring in organ at college and even going so far as to earn doctorates in organ or church music. A couple of our former POE students have played in or won competitions. It is fun to stay connected with them and to watch them grow in their musical abilities. These organ students help us to realize that there are young people out there interested in the organ and are willing to work hard to become excellent church organists. I have also noticed more young people at our regional and national conventions—another very hopeful sign!

I hope that each of our members might think about talented young keyboardists that they could encourage to audition for our Organ Academy scholarships or invite to attend our Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event coming up in February. Current organ students could even be encouraged to attend a Pipe Organ Encounter Camp this summer. These are all great opportunities to introduce young people to the King of Instruments!

## Speaking of Organs

Two important projects are underway in our region.

**David Salmen is installing an organ in the Recital Hall at the Performing Arts Center in Brookings.** This instrument was originally a Reuter organ located at a college in the Denver area and will find a new life in the newly expanded Performing Arts Center in Brookings. Physical installation is underway at the moment with tonal finishing progressing as the building's construction process allows. Look for more information on this project and dedication events with Greg Hand and The Boston Brass.

**The JF Nordlie Company is in the process of completing a new instrument at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Aberdeen.** The project is about 75 percent new and 25 percent restoration of the original 1955 instrument. Many of the pipes have been restored and a new software-based console is being installed. The organ had suffered from neglect largely due to building renovations over the years that had hampered accessibility to the organ for service. The new design improves access as well as updates the control systems using the latest digital technology.

### UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY!

- ◆ The date for the April Concert at Dordt College should be Tuesday, April 2. It is listed incorrectly as April 12 in the year-book/directory.
- ◆ Elizabeth Soladay's phone number is listed incorrectly in the SDAGO Academy information on page 7 of the year-book/directory. It should be (605) 770-0767. Liz's phone number is correct in the directory listing.
- ◆ Daniel Tsukamoto's phone number is listed incorrectly in the directory. The correct number is (586) 805-0500
- ◆ David Moklebust's email address is listed incorrectly in the directory. It should be dmoklebust@yahoo.com.

### ORGAN TO GIVE AWAY

Baldwin, 2 manual, full pedal organ is available free for moving it. It would be a good practice organ. Phone: 605-334-9592.

## Welcome New Members!

**Nic Engel** was born in Minnesota but spent most of his life in Nebraska, where he began by taking piano and organ lessons in elementary school and served as assistant organist beginning at the age of thirteen at his home church. After graduating from Midland Lutheran College, he taught English to seventh, ninth and eleventh-grade students for thirty-three years, retiring in 2001. He then worked as a public relations person and an office manager at an automobile dealership. After retiring from that, some friends invited him to visit Sioux Falls and consider this as his new home. After living here for two weeks, he was offered a job as an organist/worship planner. 2019 marks sixty years on the bench.

He served in three Lutheran, a Baptist and a Roman Catholic church in Fremont, NE, over a period of nearly forty years; as assistant organist at a Lutheran church in Lincoln and a Methodist church near Lincoln; as assistant organist at Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln; as organist at a Roman Catholic seminary in NE; a Baptist church in Sioux Falls, organist at Christ the King parish; substitute organist at a local nursing home; at funeral homes; at the SD state penitentiary and as guest organist at seminaries and churches.



**Warren Shoberg** was born and raised in Rapid City, graduated from Rapid City High School, and attended Augustana (College) University. He received his Bachelor of Arts with majors in music and German from Augustana. His major instrument was organ. He received the Master of Music degree from the University of South Dakota. The emphasis for that degree was on Orff Schulwerk. He was one of the pioneers in the state using that philosophy for teaching children. He was a founding member of the American Orff Schulwerk Association. He is one of the founders of the Singing Boys of Sioux Falls, working with that group for 25 years.

Warren taught music in the Sioux Falls Schools for 17 years. Following that he worked with gifted and talented students for the remainder of his career. He also taught at the University of Sioux Falls, the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and the University of Wisconsin (Platteville).

Warren was organist and choirmaster at Calvary Episcopal Cathedral and organist at East Side Lutheran Church. Then his career shifted to music education. He was ordained a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church and served Holy Apostles Church in Sioux Falls while continuing to teach full time. He is a Benedictine Canon.

After retiring from his teaching, directing and ministerial positions he has found time to return to the organ. He was a member of the AGO many years ago and is happy to return to the organization.

**Christopher Larson** has lived in Vermillion since 2003, and has received a Bachelor of Music Education, Choral Conducting Masters, and Collaborative Piano Masters degrees from the University of South Dakota. Between the undergraduate and graduate degrees, he taught 5th-12th grade band and high school choir in Scotland, SD and high school band in Sioux Center, IA. Chris continues to teach voice, piano, and sax lessons, and is in his 4th year as the USD Theatre Department as the Musical Theatre Coach Accompanist and Music Director. In his free time, he freelances as a pianist, percussionist, vocalist, multiple woodwind player, clinician, and judge for regional music related events. Chris is also organist at First United Methodist Church in Vermillion.



**Spencer Smith** is the Organist and Director of Music at First Congregational Church in Sioux Falls. Spencer is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Choral Conducting at the University of South Dakota. In May 2017, he received a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from the University of South Dakota where he studied with Dr. Susanne Skyrms and Dr. Susan Keith Gray. While at the University, he also studied organ with Dr. Larry Schou. Prior to moving to Sioux Falls, he was the organist at the Vermillion United Church of Christ, Congregational for four years. He also enjoys his time as a collaborative pianist, working with multiple choral ensembles, festivals, state competitions, singers and instrumentalists in the Sioux Falls area.

# Holiday Music

*Celebrate the season with music! Following are several opportunities to do just that in the area in the weeks ahead.*

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

**SD Symphony Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists**

Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1 at 7 PM

First Lutheran Church, 327 S Dakota Ave, Sioux Falls

Experience the transcendent Handel's Messiah with the SDSO at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. This perennial favorite presents the life of Christ, featuring an unparalleled lineup of vocalists and the SDSO Chorus in a stunning celebration. To purchase tickets, go to [www.southdakotasymphony.org](http://www.southdakotasymphony.org), call 605-367-6000 or visit the Washington Pavilion box office

## AUGUSTANA CHRISTMAS VESPERS: DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE

Friday, November 30 at 7:00 pm Saturday, December 1 at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 909 W 33rd Street, Sioux Falls

Augustana Performing and Visual Arts presents Christmas Vespers 2018, a celebration of the birth of Christ featuring Augustana's four choirs and the orchestra. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$12 for seniors (65+), and \$10 for students K-12 and Augie students with an ID. To purchase tickets, [follow this link](#) or call 605.274.5320 .

## UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS MADRIGAL DINNERS

November 30, December 1 & 7 at 7:30 pm

MacDonald Center, University of Sioux Falls

The University of Sioux Falls Madrigal Dinners are an annual series of Renaissance-themed Christmas dinner-theater performances presented by the Singing Camerata (known during the holiday season as "The Madrigal Singers"). Established in 1963 by Lois Harchanko, Music Professor Emeritus, the Madrigal Dinners represent one of USF's longest-standing and strongest traditions. The performances combine vocal and instrumental music, dancing, drama, and fine dining. To purchase tickets, [follow this link](#), or contact the theatre box office at 605-331-6787 or [fineartsboxoffice@usioxford.edu](mailto:fineartsboxoffice@usioxford.edu).

## HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH HEARTLAND HANDBELLS AND THE SINGING BOYS

Friday, December 7 at 7:00 pm

First Congregational Church, 300 S Minnesota Ave, Sioux Falls

Heartland Handbells and the Singing Boys of Sioux Falls will present an evening of holiday music! Music includes Jingle Bell Rock, the 12 Days of Christmas, I Wonder as I Wander and O Come! All Ye Faithful! Freewill offering.

## TIS THE SEASON WITH THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, December 8, 2018 – 7:30 PM

Mary W. Sommervold Hall at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls

Back by popular demand, South Dakota's Christmas spectacular returns to bring the warmth of the holidays center stage. Broadway stars join the orchestra, chorus, and an array of performers in a production filled with holiday cheer and your favorite dancing Santas! To purchase tickets, [follow this link](#), call 605-367-6000 or visit the Washington Pavilion box office

## ADVENT LESSONS AND MUSIC

Monday, December 17 at 7:30 pm

Calvary Episcopal Cathedral – 500 S Main Ave, Sioux Falls

An Advent Festival of Lessons & Music has been Calvary Cathedral's Advent gift to the community for over 30 years. This beloved Anglican tradition features the Calvary Cathedral Choir, directed by Dr. Monty Barnard, and Tenor Eric Wassenaar. Music of the season is highlighted by organist Jonathan Neiderhiser, the Dakota String Quartet and the High Plains Flute Choir. Don't miss this free evening as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child! A reception follows.

## TRANSEPT CHRISTMAS: DIVINE MYSTERY

Saturday, December 22 at 7:30 pm

First Congregational Church, 300 S Minnesota Ave, Sioux Falls

Join Transept in a wondrous and ethereal journey through the ages. Ancient and modern works are seamlessly fused together including contemplative plainchant, soaring and angelic treble works as well as beloved familiar carols. Tickets \$25 [HERE](#) or at the door. For more information visit [www.transept.org](http://www.transept.org).