...the Duluth News-

Duluth to participate in "The World's Largest Organ Recital"

Budgeteer 4/13/96

At 4 p.m. on Sun., April 14, organists across the country and in Duluth will simultaneously begin "The World's Largest Organ Recital" with the opening notes of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Toccata & Fugue in D Minor*, perhaps the most famous piece of organ music in the world.

The event celebrates the centennial year of the American Guild of Organists and the 125th anniversary of Pilgrim Congregational Church. The recital is being co-sponsored by the Arrowhead Chapter of the AGO and by the Pilgrim Organ Recital Series. The Duluth recital will take place at Pilgrim Congregations Church, 2310 E. Fourth St., and will feature guest recitalist Dr. Delbert Disselhorst, professor of organ studies at Iowa State University, playing the magnificent 67 rank Jaeckel pipe organ.

The AGO is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild was founded in the city of New York on April 13, 1896. Outstanding organists all over the country were invited to become members as "Founders." Over 140 organists joined the Guild in this manner until the list of Founders was finally closed. A charter was granted by the Regents of the University of the State of New York on Dec. 7, 1896. This charter established the Guild as an examining body, authorizing it to hold examinations and to grant certificates in tow classes, Associates and Fellows. Since that time, the examinations have expanded to include Choir Masters, Colleagues and Service Playing Certificates.

At the Guild's 50th anniversary in 1946, there were chapters in every state of the union with almost 9,000 members. In 1996, there are 355 chapters with 21,000 members. There is also a chapter of the AGO in the United Kindgom at Penicuik, Scotland. Today, the AGO is open to working professionals - organists, choir directors, teachers, organbuilders - as well as students, clergy and amateur musicians. Founded as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

The American Guild of Organists and Pilgrim Congregations Church invite the public to attend "The World's Largest Organ Recital" and to celebrate the AGO Centennial and Pilgrim Church's 125th Anniversary.

Tickets are $7, $5 for students, and will be available at the door. Since this will be a well-attended event however, you may call Pilgrim church in advance at 724-8503 to reserve tickets at the door.