

2015-2016 Opening Event Organ Concert & Catered Dinner

**Friday, September 18, 6:30 p.m.
St. Olaf Catholic Church, Downtown Minneapolis**

TCAGO is pleased to present an organ concert with Alcee Chriss, performing on the 67-rank Lively-Fulcher pipe organ at St. Olaf Catholic Church. Chriss is an Oberlin Conservatory of Music graduate and prize winner. The concert will be followed by a catered dinner at 7:30 p.m. Register at tcago.org for the catered dinner (\$20) and add guest names *or* contact Jeremy Haug (612-578-8058). You do not need to register for the concert, only if you plan to attend the dinner.

Celebrated for his “grace, skill and abundant proficiency,” Alcee Chriss III has performed throughout the United States and France and is emerging as an outstanding young concert artist of virtuosity and versatility. He has won top prizes at international and national competitions, receiving First Prize and Audience Prize in the Miami International Organ Competition (2014), the Albert Schweitzer National Organ Competition in Wethersfield, CT (2013), and the Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in Austin, TX (2013). Mr. Chriss performed as a “Rising Star” at the AGO National Convention in Boston during the summer of 2014.



More recently, Alcee was selected as one of five finalists for the final round of the Taylor Organ Competition in Atlanta in April 2015, and won the \$5,000 second prize. He also spent January 2014 in France studying historic organs and repertoire and performed in a concert at the *Musée des Augustins*.



An alumnus of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Alcee received the Masters degree in historical keyboard and a Bachelors degree in organ. At Oberlin, he studied with James David Christie, Olivier Latry, and had studies in improvisation with Marie Louise Langlais. He studied harpsichord and continuo playing with Webb Wiggins and Hank Knox. In May

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Pipedreams
American Guild of Organists – Twin Cities Chapter
www.tcago.org



Dean's Column

Paul Westermeyer

Justice and Thanks

Consider the following.

1) In his *Stone Lectures* at Princeton Seminary in 1926 Louis Benson noted that seminary curricula omitted hymnody, leaving pastors unprepared for hymnic matters they would encounter.

2) It is still not unusual almost a century later for pastors to report no study of worship, hymnody, or music in their seminary curricula.

3) Programs of study musicians and teachers seek that integrate worship, theology, hymnody, and music are also difficult to find.

4) Some schools that have integrated these studies, that have received high marks for them, and that have successfully prepared their graduates for work in churches and schools all over the world have in recent years scuttled such study for dubious reasons (Union, 1973; Southern Baptist, 2009; Luther, 2013).

5) Pastors and musicians learn their crafts in different schools and contexts, and they often have little or no knowledge of what the other is doing.

6) A power differential gives pastors control, though they often, by their own reporting, know less about worship and music than musicians do.

7) Our milieu teaches us that music is a matter of technical facility and that music as a discipline of study has nothing to contribute to a theological (or any serious) conversation. Music is perceived as a matter of superficial likes and dislikes to be used for whatever purposes you want to use it. Since this view is so ubiquitous, both clergy and musicians easily and unconsciously gravitate to it.

These details reflect a system that shuts music out of theological study and results in unjust treatment of musicians. I hear about this at every conference I attend. Recently a particularly egregious example of injustice to a very able and faithful musician became for me the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. It stretched over many months during which I had been asked by groups completely unrelated to this debacle to address topics that included how



musicians were treated. The coinciding of these two circumstances led me to conclude that somebody has to say something about justice for musicians. I've been trying to do this therefore in recent speeches, conferences, articles, and a book *MorningStar* is publishing this month.

Here are a few things that need to be said.

1) Organists are often targets for attack and injustice. Why? Because the inherited musical wisdom of the church in both congregational and choral ways inheres most obviously in the study and practice organists do. Our culture does not like inherited communal wisdom which is partly why we lash out at our neighbors so violently, among them organists.

2) This is a systemic issue. It is not only or even primarily about personality disputes. That knee jerk reflex is a conscious or unconscious attempt to avoid the substantive stuff we should be considering.

3) In spite of the horrors we know about all too well, there are simultaneously incredibly positive but usually less well-known oases where pastors, musicians, and people work together extremely well on behalf of people in the surrounding culture and one another.

4) And there are organists in awful circumstances who somehow continue to do their jobs faithfully and well, no matter what.

I want to say here as strongly as possible what needs to be said to organists in whatever their circumstances: thank you, thank you, thank you. This thanks extends to organists in individual jobs and to the work we do together. The work done together is evident in the TCAGO in all sorts of ways. What I have in mind particularly at this time as we begin a new year is those of you who have worked for months now, including this summer, on the fine programs you have planned for this coming year. These are detailed in this issue of *Pipenotes*. They provide sustenance for all of us. To those of you who have made them possible, and to all of you who do your work so faithfully however and wherever you do it, thank you, thank you, thank you.

See you on September 18 at St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis for Alcee Chriss's organ playing, the catered dinner, and the installation of new TCAGO officers.

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2015, he served as the harpsichordist for Oberlin's production of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's opera *Les Plaisirs de Versailles* at both the National Museum of American History and the Boston Early Music Festival.

In the fall of 2016, he will begin his doctorate degree at McGill University. In addition to his organ and harpsichord studies, Alcee is active as a conductor and jazz pianist.

St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis
<http://saintolaf.org/>

TCAGO Program Year 2015-2016 **(All events free and open to the public)**

Friday, September 18

Opening Event – Recital and Catered Dinner

Recital, 6:30 p.m.; Dinner 7:30 p.m.
Alcee Chriss, organist
Installation of officers
St. Olaf Catholic Church, Downtown Minneapolis

Saturday, October 24

Organ Crawl in Saint Paul Summit Avenue area

9:00 a.m. - St. Thomas More Catholic Church
10:00 a.m. - Unity Baptist Church (tentative)
11:00 am - St. Clement's Episcopal Church
Noon - Lunch
1:30 p.m. - St. Paul's UCC: demonstration of
Wicks and Hauptwerk addition

Saturday, November 14, 1:00 p.m. **Masterclass with Balint Karosi**

St. Mary's Chapel
The Saint Paul Seminary, St. Paul

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m. **Balint Karosi Organ Concert**

Organ Artist Concert Series
Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
University of St. Thomas, St Paul

Saturday, January 16, 2016 **Mid-Winter Tune up**

Regional and Historic Organs;
American church music
Presenters

Paul Westermeyer (book: *Church Music in the United States, 1760-1901*)

Kim Kasling (historic organs in central Minnesota)
Anita Smisek (Czech and Czech/American church music)

UBS Forum, Minnesota Public Radio
480 Cedar Street, St Paul

Widor Festival - Chamber, choral, and organ music with John Near, lecturer.

Sunday, January 24

Piano Trio in B-flat, Opus 19

Bakken Trio
Antonello Recital Hall
MacPhail Center, Minneapolis

Friday, February 5

Mass and other works for organ, brass and choir
Bob Vickery and Lawrence Lawyer, organists
Cathedral of St. Paul

Sunday, February 7

Symphony No. 3, Op. 69, for organ and orchestra
Minneapolis Civic Orchestra
Cary John Franklin conductor
Diana Lee Lucker, organist
Wayzata Community Church

Saturday, February 27 **Pipe Organ Discovery Day**

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Eagan

Saturday, March 19 **Bach and Reger Bash**

Saint Paul Summit Avenue Area
Celebrating birthday of Bach, and 100th anniversary death of Max Reger

Pipedreams, MPR; Michael Barone, host
A Before Bach's Birthday Bash, celebrating the 331st birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach (b. March 21, 1685) and also commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death this year of one of the foremost post-Bach contrapuntal masters, who happens to have been

born on this very day, Max Reger (March 19, 1873-
May 11, 1916)

St. Mary's Chapel, St. Paul Seminary
University of St. Thomas Chapel
The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. - noon
Masterclass with Ken Cowan

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4100 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis

Sunday, April 10, 4:00 p.m.
Ken Cowan Organ Concert

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4100 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis

Saturday, April 16
TCAGO Competition for Young Organists

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4100 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis

Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
TCAGO Members Organ Recital
celebrating music of Max Reger

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Composition Competition Results Announced

Lydian Suite (2012) by Erik Meyer is the winning entry in the 2015 TCAGO Composition Competition, winning a prize of \$1500. Dozens of compositions from across North America were submitted of works for pipe organ with instrument(s).

Erik currently serves as Director of Music at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Philadelphia, where he oversees a large and active parish music program and semi-professional choir. His compositions are published by Augsburg Fortress, St. James Press, and Music-Spoke.



Erik Meyer was raised in Collingswood, NJ, where he began his organ studies at thirteen, studying with the Rev. J. Bert Carlson. Erik earned a BM in 2000 and an MM in organ performance in 2004 from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, where he studied with Donald Sutherland.

He was a preliminary finalist in the 2006, 2008 and 2012 National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance, and winner of the 1999 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Competition. He has performed over one hundred recitals throughout the world and often performs organ-flute duo recitals with his wife, Anna.

He currently serves as the registrar for the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Previous positions include Luther Memorial Church in Erie, PA, where he also was an adjunct faculty member at Mercyhurst College and dean of the Erie American Guild of Organists from 2009-2011.

The panel of judges invested a great deal of time independently reviewing the many fine submissions, and expresses gratitude for the many hours of work invested by the composers.

Members of the panel were Curt Oliver, Robert Strusinski and Lawrence Lawyer.

Requirements for the 2016 Twin Cities American Guild of Organists Composition Competition may be found in the coming weeks at tcago.org

Choral Music by Erik Meyer

for sample scores
& recordings, please visit:



musicspoke.com/composer/erikmeyer/

Mag & Nunc in E – SATB+div. & organ

Preces & Responses in E – SATBB

Evensong for Treble Voices – unison, opt. 2-part;
includes responses & canticles; fun & accessible

St. John Passion – SATB, soloists

Three Spirituals – SSAATTBB: I Want Jesus to Walk
with Me; Wade in the Water; Rise up Shepherd

My Inward Joys Arise – SATB & organ

The Beatitudes – SATB (opt. div.) & organ

You Are the Light of the World – SATB & organ

erik@aemeyer.com



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New Members of the Chapter

Nicole Millner has been a church musician since she was a teenager, first playing flute at mass, and eventually moving to the organ. After completing degrees in Flute Performance at Boston University and Boston Conservatory, she began organ study with Lynn Trapp. As she grew more interested in liturgical music, Nicole began taking classes at the School of Theology at St. John's University in Collegeville. She eventually began a formal degree program, studying organ with Kim Kasling, and graduated this past spring with an MA in Liturgical Music, with a concentration in organ. Nicole studied voice with Janice Kimes and Patricia Kent, and sang in the Chant Schola with Fr. Anthony Ruff. She completed coursework in the Ward Method at the Catholic University of America and is certified to teach the first book of the Ward Method of singing. Nicole is currently the Director of Liturgy and Music at the Church of St. Peter in North Saint Paul.

651-894-6142

nmillner@stpetersnsp.org


A native of Saint Cloud, **Jacob Benda** received his DMA from Louisiana State University under Herndon Spillman. Recently appointed the Director of Music and Organist at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Brooklyn Park, he has toured extensively throughout the United States including performances at the University of North Texas, Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle, Wesleyan University, the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, and Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, Missouri. Jacob and his wife, Ali, are excited to be in Minnesota.

In 2014, his debut album entitled *Music at Midnight: A Tonal Palette – Organ Music of Clarence Mader*, was released on the Centaur Label. Currently serving

as a member of the Board of Directors for the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund, Jacob has written the first extensive document about the life and music of this American pedagogue, organist and composer, entitled *The Stylistic Variance and Underlying Unity in Selected Organ Works by Clarence Mader*.

763-762-7416

jacobbenda@saintvdp.org



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Pipedreams Scholarship Audition

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 a.m.
Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata

Organ lessons are expensive so let's encourage young pianists and organists to take advantage of the *Pipedreams* Scholarship offered twice a year.

This \$500 scholarship is offered to junior and senior high school students with basic piano skills. The next audition will be held on Saturday, October 10, at 10:30 a.m. at Wayzata Community Church. Application forms are available at tcago.org and should be sent to Karen Bartz by October 5.

kbartz@house-of-prayer.com

For further information please contact Diana Lee Lucker; dlucker621@aol.com

Wayzata Community Church

125 Wayzata Blvd. East, Wayzata

<http://www.wayzatacommunitychurch.org>



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Thursday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.

Samuel Backman Organ Concert Cathedral of Saint Paul

Duluth native, Yale graduate and virtuoso concert organist Samuel Backman will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 10, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The concert is part of the Cathedral's Centennial 2015 celebration. The all-French music program will include works by Gigout, Guilman, Alain and Duruflé.

Samuel Backman is a native of Duluth, who was raised in Independence, Wisconsin. He holds an MM degree from Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music and a BM degree, *magna cum laude* with departmental distinction from St. Olaf College. He studied organ with John Ferguson, Catherine Rodland, Martin Jean, and Thomas Murray. Additionally, he studied choral conducting with Christopher Aspaas, Anton Armstrong, and Marguerite Brooks.



In addition to musical training, Sam studied philosophy and theology at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. He has been active as a church musician since the age of 12. Backman has worked as assistant organist at Saint Paul's Episcopal on the Green in Norwalk, and organist at the University Church at Yale. He has served as an organist at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, where he remains active in the formation of Choristers in the Cathedral Choir School. In addition, he continues to serve in the formation of Choristers in the Cathedral Choir School, and as organist for special liturgies as a member of the sacred music staff.

The concert is free and open to the public. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted.

Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Avenue, St Paul

<http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/>

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The Journey of Song

**Saturday, September 26, 10:30 a.m. -12:00 noon
Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic Church, Ramsey**

The Journey of Song is a Fall Formation Workshop led by John Angotti, nationally-recognized concert artist, worship director and retreat leader.

A theological reflection on the liturgical process of composing and selecting music that accompanies the ritual action. In this workshop musicians will develop a deeper understanding of the liturgical rites and how music can either engage a community in the mystery behind each rite or hinder them. It will explore using music as a way for evangelization, catechesis, and to help assemblies gain full, active and conscious participation.

Refreshments beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Cost is \$10.00 per participant

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
7101 143rd Avenue NW, Ramsey

<http://www.stkdcc.org>

STEPHEN HAMILTON Concert Organist

An excellent performance of the Bach "Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor" (was) given by Stephen Hamilton who obviously knew the (Rieger) organ's sonorous capabilities and brought them powerfully to bear in a rousing account. He took serious risks with accents of duration at one point, lingering on strong beats, but succeeded in enhancing the effect of teeming culmination that lies at the heart of this work. —The New York Times

www.stephenjonhamilton.com

952-934-0331

Stephen Hamilton in Concert

Sunday, September 27, 4:00 p.m.
Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester



Concert organist Stephen Hamilton, Minister of Music *Emeritus* at the Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) in New York City, and Membership Coordinator for the TCAGO Chapter, has a full

schedule of concerts and church music repertoire classes in the 2015-2016 season

His local appearances include the following:
 Sunday, September 27, Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester, on the four-manual instrument recently restored by the Wicks Organ Company

Tuesday, April 26, 8:00 p.m., *Great Anthems of the Church* at First Lutheran Church in Marshall

Tuesday, May 10, 12:30 p.m. at the Church of Saint Louis, King of France, in Saint Paul.

For a complete listing of his national and international concerts and workshops, see his website

www.stephenjonhamilton.com

Christ United Methodist Church
 400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester
<http://www.cumethodist.com>

The National Lutheran Choir

The National Lutheran Choir is pleased to announce its 2015-16 season, 30 years of singing together. The choir's 30th anniversary season includes a four-concert subscription series, a Christmas concert in St. Louis, in addition to its beloved Christmas concerts at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, a midwest tour and a choral tuneup with acclaimed composer and conductor, René Clausen.

The season culminates with a concert titled *The Minnesota Tradition*, honoring the history and collection of choral music that has been nurtured and grown out of the many Lutheran colleges in Minnesota and throughout the midwest.

The subscriptions series includes:

All Saints Concert *Blessed are They* in November
 Christmas Festival *The Spotless Rose* in December
 Winter Concert *Psalms and Spirituals* in February
 Spring Concert *The Minnesota Tradition* in April and May.

More information about the National Lutheran Choir's 30th anniversary season, tours, recordings and workshops can be found at www.nlca.com.



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Calendar of Events

September

September 7-14

American Pilgrimage Choir Tour
of Bach's Germany

Lynn Trapp, contact person

St. Olaf Catholic Church, Minneapolis

Thursday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.

Organ Concert

Samuel Backman, organist

Cathedral of Saint Paul

239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul

TCAGO Program Event

Friday, September 18, 6:30 p.m.

Opening Event – Recital and Dinner

Alcee Chriss, organist

Catered Dinner 7:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Saturday, September 26, 10:30 a.m.

The Journey of Song

John Angotti, Fall Formation Workshop

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church

7101 143rd Avenue, Ramsey

Sunday, September 27, 4:00 p.m.

Organ concert

Stephen Hamilton, organist

Christ United Methodist Church

400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester

October

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 a.m.

Pipedreams Scholarship audition

Wayzata Community Church

125 Wayzata Blvd. East, Wayzata

October 23 - November 3

Pilgrimage of Faith, Heritage and Music

Jim Hild, contact person

All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, October 24, 9:00 a.m. start

Organ Crawl in St. Paul Summit Avenue area

9:00 a.m. St. Thomas More Catholic Church

10:00 a.m. Unity Baptist Church

11:00 a.m. St. Clement's Episcopal Church

1:30 p.m. St. Paul's UCC Church

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November

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.

Masterclass with Balint Karosi

St. Mary's Chapel

The Saint Paul Seminary

2260 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

TCAGO Program Event

Sunday, November 15, 2:00 p.m.

Organ Artist Concert Series

Balint Karosi, organist

University of St. Thomas Chapel

Cleveland & Laurel Aves., St. Paul



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January

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, January 16, time tba

Mid-Winter Tune up

UBS Forum, Minnesota Public Radio

480 Cedar Street, St. Paul

TCAGO Program Event

Sunday, January 24, time tba

Widor Festival

Bakken Trio

Antonello Recital Hall, MacPhail Center

501 South Second Street, Minneapolis

February

TCAGO Program Event

Friday, February 5, time tba

Widor Festival

Bob Vickery and Lawrence Lawyer, organists

Cathedral of St. Paul

239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul

TCAGO Program Event

Sunday, February 7, time tba

Widor Festival

Minneapolis Civic Orchestra

Cary John Franklin, conductor

Diana Lee Lucker, organist

Wayzata Community Church

125 Wayzata Boulevard East, Wayzata

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, February 27, time tba

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

3930 Rahn Road, Eagan

March

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, March 19, time tba

Bach and Reger Bash

St. Mary's Chapel, St. Paul Seminary

University of St. Thomas Chapel

House of Hope Presbyterian Church

April

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Masterclass with Ken Cowan

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4100 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis

TCAGO Program Event

Sunday, April 10, 4:00 p.m.

Organ concert

Ken Cowan, organist

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4100 Lyndale Ave., South, Minneapolis

TCAGO Program Event

Saturday, April 16, time tba

TCAGO Competition for Young Organists

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4100 Lyndale Ave., South, Minneapolis

Tuesday, April 26, 8:00 p.m.

Great Anthems of the Church

Stephen Hamilton, organist

First Lutheran Church

100 Church Street, Marshall

May

TCAGO Program Event

Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Members' Organ Recital – music of Max Reger

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Tuesday, May 10, 12:30

Noontime Organ Series

Stephen Hamilton, organist

Church of Saint Louis, King of France

506 Cedar Street, St. Paul

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Calendar Coordination / Events Scheduling: [J. Michael Barone](#),
 (w) 651-290-1539, (h) 651-228-9885

Communications Coordinator: [Jeremy Haug](#) 612-578-8058

Guild Examinations: [Stephen Self](#) 651-638-6536

Membership Coordinator: [Stephen Hamilton](#) (h) 952-934-0331,
 (m) 212-289-0615

Pipenotes Editor: [Merritt Nequette](#) 651-484-0451
 2748 Lexington Avenue N., St. Paul MN 55113

Placement: [Jeffrey Patry](#) 763-537-4561 ext. 109,
 (h) 612-871-7533

Student Competition: [Mary Newton](#) (h) 763-546-1307,
 (m) 612-581-3106

TCAGO Email: [Jeremy Haug](#) 612-578-8058

TCAGO Organ Database: [David Engen](#) (m) 612-801-8662

Chapter Website - www.tcago.org

Website Administrators: [David Engen](#) (m) 612-801-8662,
 (h) 763-493-3378; [Kirsten Uhlenberg](#) 651-646-8120

Facebook - facebook.com/twincitiesAGO

Pipenotes

is the official publication of the Twin Cities Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and is published nine times a year, September through June. December and January are combined.

Deadline date

Information for *Pipenotes* should be received no later than the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

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." However, 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 Events, if you wish to add your own upcoming activity, under the headline for "Calendar Events Home" at the top of the page you should find an additional prompt for "Submit Event." Fill in all appropriate boxes (and check to see if your venue is already logged into the system, which might save you some time).

Note that this MPR Calendar information will reach a different 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 classical music concerts.

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 programming!