

Future Tense? A Young Artists Perspective!

--by Michael Barone

Wouldn't we all like to peer into the crystal ball and see what sort of situation organists will face in coming years? But wait, the 'future' is in the hands of today's organ students, and to gain some insights, and encourage the stars of tomorrow, the TCAGO will convene a group of youthful performers who will present a special *Focus on the Young Musician*, a **concert-and-conversation** on **Saturday, January 16, 2010** (9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) at **Crossview Lutheran Church** (6645 McCauley Trail) in Edina.

Listen to them play! - Marvel at their talent! - Enjoy their refreshing perspectives!

Our *Focus on the Young Musician* will feature performances by several regional students (see below). Following some introductory social time (with coffee, tea and treats), each student will play a brief selection on the Crossview's **1993 Holtkamp organ**. Then, after a brief intermission, they'll be engaged be in a moderated conversation about their first stirrings of organ interest, their present and proposed courses of study, and their view of the current 'organ scene' and how they hope to enliven it.

Potential participating students include:

Karl Robson (St. Olaf College sophomore; student of Dr. Catherine Rodland; organist at Crossview)

Sam Backman (St. Olaf senior; student of Dr. John Ferguson; began college as a composition major)

Jonathan Gregoire (student of Dr. Kim Kasling at St. John's University; former organist at Crossview; recently returned from an autumn quarter of study in France)

Susanna Valleau (student of Dr. Kathrine Handford at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, who spent the summer as an intern at C.B. Fisk and the autumn term in Amsterdam studying with Jacques van Oortmerssen)

April Beckman (a student of Dr. John Eggert, while working on a Masters Degree at Concordia University-Mequon, WI; also director of music at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN)

Joseph Roenbeck (a new Billmeyer graduate student with a jazz background; organist at the Mindekerken in Minneapolis)

Our host, Rebecca Waller, has been director of music at Crossview Lutheran since 1985. Beloved TCAGO member Paul Emch served as organist here beginning in 1995. The Holtkamp organ consists of two manuals and pedal, 28 ranks, with electro-pneumatic action. A detailed specification can be found in the "Organs" section at tcago.org. For detailed directions, look under "About Us: Map and Directions" online at crossview.net.

Is the future of the organ in good hands? Mark this on your calendar, and plan to attend so that you will be in the know! And bring a friend...the public is invited, too!