

Pipenotes



Twin Cities Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
Minneapolis & Saint Paul

Vol. 28 No. 4

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New job? Just retired? Still subbing? Please help us keep our membership information up to date by logging in at the [TCAGO web site](#) and updating the **professional information** in your directory profile. You may access it once you've logged in by going to "View Profile" under your name in the upper right corner of the web site.

If your **contact information** has recently changed, including address, phone number, email, or to renew your membership, please log in at the national AGO membership **ONCARD** site at [agohq.org/oncard-login](#) and make the necessary updates.

For any problems or questions regarding logging in, please contact Jeffrey Patry, TCAGO Registrar, at jeffreypatry@yahoo.com, 763-788-9653, ext. 109 (w), or 612-327-9894 (c).

For problems or questions regarding logging in to ONCARD, contact info@agohq.org or call 212-870-2310.

All updates made by December 15 will be included in the 2022–2023 TCAGO print directory.

Dean's Column

DAVID JENKINS

How do we explain the fascination many of us share for the organ as an artifact? What is it about the organ—mechanically, culturally, historically—that brings us together for an event like the chapter organ crawl on

November 5? While the range of our chapter programming runs the gamut of the interests of our members, the organ crawls bring the organ itself to the fore.

The answer is, no doubt, different for each of us. Two reasons come to mind that apply for me. First, the organ is a hands-on device that is fun to make music with, and second, my enjoyment of listening to others play the organ is inseparably connected to my almost constant awareness of the unique physical presence of the organ in the place where it is played.

My first experience with playing the organ was while I was in grade school, just after I started taking piano lessons. Our church, St. James on the Parkway Episcopal in Minneapolis, had a standard Hammond church organ. The organist



December 2022–January 2023

Chapter Events 2022–2023

Sunday, September 25

Opening Event: Gala Concert and Member Dinner

Saturday, October 8

Presentation and Masterclass
with Bruce Neswick

Saturday, October 15

Pipedreams Organ Scholarship Auditions

Saturday, November 5

Hendrickson Retrospective Organ Crawl

Saturday, February 4

Pipe Organ Discovery Day with Isabelle Demers

Monday/Tuesday, February 27/28

Concert (Mon), Presentation (Tue)
with Jean-Baptiste Robin

Tuesday, March 7

Lecture Recital by Thomas Fielding:
Henri Mulet's Esquisses Byzantines

Saturday, March 18

Before Bach's Birthday Bash

Saturday, March 25

Student Competition

Saturday, April 22

Pipedreams Organ Scholarship Auditions

Spring date TBD

Pipe Organ Heritage Committee
Field Trip Adventure

Friday, May 12

TCAGO Members Recital

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and choirmaster Greg Larson (some of you may remember him!) showed me how to turn on the instrument, and he let me have free rein in the empty church after the worship service. I remember carefully working the start lever while the insides of the organ console ground and whirred. I loved trying my little pieces from First Lessons in Bach, first on this manual, and next on that one. What would happen when I pulled this drawbar, or depressed that preset key? What was a “Leslie” and what happened when I turned that on?

Admittedly, this might have been a “guy thing,” the same tendency that drew me to Lincoln Logs, Erector Sets, and model airplanes. But, think of our Pipe Organ Discovery Day programs. Each year they bring young people together for a guided hands-on experience of the organ. The students experience what it is like to touch it, play it, climb inside the inner workings. This initial introduction to a mechanical artifact hopefully plants a seed that might eventually grow a new organist. Or even if the student does not become an organist, at least a new world is opened to them. They begin to appreciate, even in an unsophisticated way, organ music and the amazing art of playing the organ. They might experience in a new way the joy of singing in church with a robust organ accompaniment. They become the next generation of supporters of the organ.

This awareness and appreciation of the organ as a mechanical device, the physicality of the instrument, rarely leaves me when listening to the organ in concerts or church. We all feel the rumbling depths and brilliant heights of the multitude of pipes in the Æolian-Skinner at Northrop Auditorium, their sounds bouncing off the walls and filling the space. We might feel transported, as I was, by the ending of the Vincent Dubois’ recent performance of the Franck B Minor Chorale at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, when the sanctuary organ whispered the final bars from behind grillwork in a distant chamber out of sight in the apse. Or we are fascinated by watching the organist as they play—feet dancing and flying fingers, manipulating stops, working swell pedals.



The fun of the organ crawl was for me, however, more than the physical, mechanical aspect of the instruments.

We also learned about the history of the organ in each church, and how that history is wrapped up with the story of the congregation and their leaders, their worship, and their mission. We also witnessed the enthusiasm and dedication of resident organists, who see their work as not only playing, conducting, serving the worship, but of preserving and protecting the heritage that their church’s pipe organ embodies. This convergence of culture, history, church music, organ building, and faith is great stuff indeed!

The importance of preserving and passing on this heritage is beautifully exemplified in a [PBS news report](#) on the recently expanded instrument in the Abbey Church at St. John’s. The report highlights the Benedictine monastery’s collaboration with organ builder Martin Pasi to invest in the future of the tradition of the hand-crafted pipe organ. Our own chapter’s video documentary on the Northrop organ, premiered at our event there this past June, explored the past, present, and future of that instrument in the musical and cultural life of the University of Minnesota, and the Twin Cities, and beyond. Our chapter’s organ crawls and other public events help us accomplish our Guild’s mission by sharing our passion for the organ and celebrating its history and heritage.



Our *Pipedreams* scholarship program is another important chapter effort that helps us pass on to future generations our passion for the organ. We are all grateful to Steve Gentile and his committee for their work in managing the scholarship audition process each year. See his report elsewhere in this newsletter. Please keep in mind this scholarship as you encounter young students in your churches or schools. The funding is there and waiting—encourage your students to audition and take advantage of the opportunity!

Christopher D. Wallace D.M.A., President/Owner

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Submission Due Date for *Pípenotes*

The due date for the February issue is **January 15**. Please send events for the Members’ Calendar, articles, reports of musical events, and any photos to Jeremy.Haug@mountcalvary.org. Share your news with our community!

—The Editor

A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND

Speak Plainly

At a recent AGO concert I was surprised and delighted to see a small group of Boy Scouts with their leaders in the audience. As they listened attentively to the music, I couldn't help but wonder what was the level of their appreciation and how much were they comprehending. When I look at printed concert programs, I often see a lot of "foreign" terms—Italian expressions, German chorales, Latin chants, French phrases, etc.—as well as musicological jargon. It may have seemed to those boys that we musicians speak in secret code.

If it is our goal to communicate the essence and background of our music to the general public, including the youth, we must search for general terms and commonly understood phrases. I am an advocate for carefully written program notes, composed in understandable language, which describes the nature of the music and suggests what we might listen for. Each performer finds different nuances in the score and lends a unique interpretation; these might well be shared in the written program. There are, of course, technicalities that remain—the listing of organ specifications, prime example.

The AGO continues to reach out to young people, musicians or not, through Pipe Organ Encounters, Discovery Days, organ crawls, and Young Artists Competitions. Our Boy Scouts seemed really eager to examine the mechanical aspects of console and pipe chamber following the concert in question. I applaud performers and hosts who welcome such visits from young and old guests. Thanks, too, to all who, in addition to playing music, write and speak simple words of explanation and encouragement.



Pipe Organ Discovery Day 2023

Saturday, February 4, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis campus

Event starts at **Ferguson Hall** (West Bank) and moves to **Northrop** (main campus)

For this very special event, we will welcome guest Isabelle Demers (McGill University, Montréal). We will also be joined by the Young Women's Organist Cohort, and students from the University of Minnesota School of Music.

Pipe Organ Discovery Day provides young students an opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and, very importantly, to expand their knowledge with hands-on experience on a variety of instruments. This event is free to all participants. Family members welcome. Prior keyboard experience is needed to play the instruments; all are welcome to come and learn. This is a great opportunity for piano students in grades 3 through 12 to play three organs over the course of the day. A pizza lunch is provided, courtesy of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO.

Students will be able to play instruments by van Daalen and Bedient in Ferguson Hall (West Bank) and Æolian-Skinner at Northrop (main campus).

In addition to the hands-on playing opportunities, students will also participate in short classes about how the pipe organ works to gain a better understanding of the instrument and its history. Pipe Organ Discovery Day starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

Registration is required for Pipe Organ Discovery Day. Complete schedules for the day and registration information will be available on the TCAGO website by early January 2023 at www.tcago.org. Visit the the Events Page and scroll down to February 4.

2023 Bach Seminar

Save the dates! Paul Westermeyer and John Setterlund will lead a study of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* on six Tuesdays beginning January 10. Plan now to take part, and watch for details in your Member E-blasts.

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AGO/Quimby Student Competition

Saturday, March 25, 2023, 1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas

University of St. Thomas

Cleveland Avenue North at Ashland Avenue, Saint Paul

The next annual student competition, offering first and second prizes and open to undergraduate and high school students, will be held at The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul on the Gabriel Kney pipe organ (1987; 3 manuals, 56 ranks; mechanical key action). Membership in the AGO is not required. Please note:

- applications must be submitted online no later than January 15, 2023.
- a competitor must be born after December 31, 2000.

First Prize is \$2,000, sponsored by the Schubert Club of Saint Paul. The First Prize winner competes in the Final Round at the July 2023 AGO North Central convention, which is in the Twin Cities this year.

Second Prize is \$1,000 and is sponsored by TCAGO member Phil Asgian.

Please find all the details at TCAGO.org and click on Education > Student Competition.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

at Richfield United Methodist Church

The Chester E. and Marion D. Groth Scholarship

Scholarships will be awarded for tuition for the 2023–2024 school year. Previous recipients are eligible to reapply for the scholarship for up to three additional years or until a Bachelor's Degree is earned, whichever occurs first.

The purpose of this fund is to award annual post-secondary scholarships for qualified students desiring to matriculate and pursue careers in music education, performance, or music therapy.

These scholarships are made possible by the generous gift of Marion Groth on behalf of her husband, Chester. To be eligible to receive this scholarship, an applicant must:

- be a graduating high school senior from a Minnesota high school;
- be entering college as a freshman.

Applications must be received in the church office no later than noon, Friday, February 24, 2023.

Applicants will be notified if invited to a finalist audition on March 18, 2023.

For more information and an application form, please contact the church office at 612-861-6086 or check the church website at richfieldumc.org/events/scholarships.

Last year \$31,500 was gifted to nine students.

Pipedreams Scholarship Audition

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

500 Blake Road South, Hopkins

(the suburb may appear as Edina in map apps or online)

Please share this information with anyone interested in organ lessons! Even if you are not a teacher, you may know of a student who plays the piano, or you may be involved in the choir or other music in your church, and would know a student or adult who may be interested.

Two \$500 scholarships are available, one for a youth and one for an adult, as a one-time stipend paid directly to the student's teacher, who must be a TCAGO chapter member. The student does not need to already have a teacher, just to have reached a basic proficiency in piano.

Youth grades 7 through 12 may audition upon recommendation of their teacher (piano or organ). No previous organ study is necessary and, for those students, the audition would be on the piano. Youth may re-apply with recommendation of a teacher. Any adult organist who is interested in more organ study may audition for the other \$500 scholarship. Find the details at TCAGO.org on the [Education page](#).

The last winner of the Pipedreams Scholarship Audition was Sheila Loger. She is organist at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church in Saint Paul and is a student of Steve Gentile.

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Advent Lessons and Carols at Holy Cross

Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis

Holy Cross Catholic Church will host their Second Annual Advent Lessons and Carols. This musical celebration combines seasonal carols, choral music, and hymns with Scripture readings for the season. This event is free and open to the public and there is ample parking. A social reception with food and drinks will follow in Kolbe Hall.

Though the tradition of Lessons and Carols originated in the late nineteenth century in England, Holy Cross's observance of this tradition has a delightfully Polish flare, featuring beloved *kolędy* (Polish Carols) and even a couple of readings in Polish! This program features organ music by Borowski and Reger, choral music by Palestrina, Wood, Manz, Goldschmidt, Carter, as well the premiere of a newly composed carol by Holy Cross Director of Music, Samuel Backman, entitled *The Branch of Peace*.

MIXTURES

"It was a wonderful reunion playing at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Phoenix (November 6) on an instrument with pipe work and voicing by Jan van Daalen (right), a former resident of Minneapolis. The church asked for an all-French program, so music of Duruflé, Franck, Messiaen, Bach, and Dupré was on the menu!"

—Stephen Hamilton

This new feature will be a mixture of different members' photos and anecdotes. Any member may send in one photo and/or 300 words or less of anything that may be of interest to our community. Share your news with us! Send items to the Editor at Kirsten213@gmail.com



Events Calendar

Please confirm details of events with the venue before attending.

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 6, 12:15 p.m.

Advent Noontime Recitals: Joel Anderson, organist

Christ United Methodist Church

400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, December 6, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Raymond Johnston, organist

Church of St. Louis, King of France

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Friday, December 9, 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

and Saturday, December 10, 8:00 p.m.

The 2023 Christmas Festival (ticketed event)

National Lutheran Choir; David Cherwien, organist

The Basilica of Saint Mary

1600 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

LIVESTREAM (free of charge) of Friday's 8:00 p.m. event

at NLCA.com

Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

Advent Lessons and Carols Service

Sam Backman, organist

Holy Cross Catholic Church

1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

The Singers: What Sweeter Music (ticketed event)

Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd

4801 France Avenue South, Minneapolis

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

and Sunday, December 11, 4:00 p.m.

VocalEssence: Welcome Christmas (ticketed event)

(see the **November issue of Pipenotes**)

Northrop, University of Minnesota

84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

Chapel Arts Series: Choir of the Basilica of St. Mary

Jacob Benda, organist

Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas

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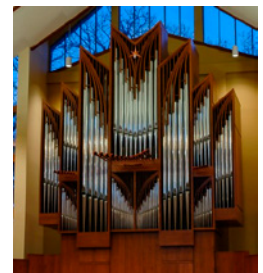
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Sunday, December 11, 2:00 p.m.
 The Singers: What Sweeter Music (ticketed event)
Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church
 1938 Stanford Ave, Saint Paul

Monday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m.
 Junior Recital: Katie Gunn, organist
Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield

Tuesday, December 13, at 12:15 p.m.
 Advent Noontime Recital: surprise guest organist
Christ United Methodist Church
 400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, December 20, 12:15 p.m.
 Advent Noontime Recitals: John Varona, organist
Christ United Methodist Church
 400 Fifth Avenue SW, Rochester

JANUARY

Sunday, January 8, 4:00 p.m.
 Katelyn Emerson, 2016 AGO National Competition Winner
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
 3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tuesday, January 10 at 12:35 p.m.
 Tuesday Organ Recital: James D. Hicks, organist
Church of St. Louis, King of France
 506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Tuesday, January 17, 12:35 p.m.
 Tuesday Organ Recitals: David P. Jenkins, organist
Church of St. Louis, King of France
 506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, January 18, 12:30 p.m.
 Noontime Series: Dean Billmeyer, organist
St. Olaf Catholic Church
 215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Friday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.
 Senior Recital: Sarah Palmer, organist
Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield

Sunday, January 22, 4:00 p.m.
 Organ Concert Series: Katie Gunn, 2022 TCAGO
 Competition Winner
Como Park Lutheran Church
 1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m.
 Lecture-Demonstration: David Briggs, organist
Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield

Sunday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.
 Organ Concert Series: Tom Ferry, organist
Como Park Lutheran Church
 1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

Tuesday, January 31 at 12:35 p.m.
 Tuesday Organ Recital: Julia Brown, organist
Church of St. Louis, King of France
 506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Saturday, February 4 (TCAGO Event)
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
 Pipe Organ Discovery Day with Isabelle Demers and
 participation of the Young Women Organists Cohort
Ferguson Hall and Northrop
 University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Sunday, February 5, 4:00 p.m.
 Organ Concert Series: Joshua Lindgren, organist
Como Park Lutheran Church
 1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

Tuesday, February 7, at 12:35 p.m.
 Tuesday Organ Recitals: Samuel Backman, organist
Church of St. Louis, King of France
 506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Tuesday, February 7, 7:30 p.m.
 Isabelle Demers, organist (ticketed event)
Northrop, University of Minnesota
 84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

Sunday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.
 Organ Concert Series: Stacie Lightner, organist
Como Park Lutheran Church
 1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

Tuesday, February 14 at 12:35 p.m.
 Tuesday Organ Recital: Joseph Ripka, organist
Church of St. Louis, King of France
 506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, February 15, 12:30 p.m.
 Noontime Series: Mary Newton, organist
St. Olaf Catholic Church
 215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

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Find us on social media:



Pipenotes

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

Deadline date

Information for *Pipenotes* should be received no later than the **fifteenth of the month preceding publication**. Materials may be sent to [Kirsten Uhlenberg](#), editor.

Letters to the Editor

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Send an email to [Kirsten Uhlenberg](#), editor.

TCAGO Event Promotion via *Pipedreams*

A comprehensive listing of organ events statewide is available online via the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*. Information there is only as good as the information provided to it, so you are encouraged to send event listings for inclusion at the earliest possible time.

For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, *please send information to Pipedreams* host (and longtime TCAGO member) [Michael Barone](#), or by mail to: *Pipedreams* Calendar, 480 Cedar St., Saint Paul, MN 55101. In a pinch, you may call 651-290-1539.

You are also encouraged to regularly request organ selections on the *Friday Favorites* show with [Steven Staruch](#). Help promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming.

NOTE: It is requested that you include this text in printed programs for any local organ concerts you play or present:

Enjoy the gamut of the pipe organ experience...from ancient to modern, sacred to secular, classical to popular...with weekly broadcasts of *Pipedreams* from American Public Media. Broadcasts in the Twin Cities are heard Sunday mornings (6–8 a.m.) on KSJN-99.5FM and other stations in the Classical MPR network. For your convenience, *Pipedreams* also is globally available 24/7 at www.pipedreams.org or www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams.

The *Organ Calendar* is accessible online and is read in week-appropriate summaries beginning at 7:00 a.m. during each Sunday morning *Pipedreams* broadcast.

Additional note from Michael:

In these COVID-complicated days, mail is better sent to me at my home address: 456 Cherokee Ave., Saint Paul MN 55107. The office phone still works, and I get emails of messages left there.

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