

# Pipenotes



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

Vol. 29 No. 5

February 2024

## Pipe Organ Discovery Day 2024

Saturday, February 17

Starts at the Iversen Center for Faith

University of St. Thomas

Cleveland at Ashland, Saint Paul;

Continues at Church of Saint Mark

2001 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul

Pipe Organ Discovery Day provides students in grades 3 through 12 with an opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and expand their knowledge with hands-on experience on a variety of instruments. The event is free to participants and family members are welcome. Prior keyboard experience is needed to play the instruments; all are welcome to come and learn. A pizza lunch is provided courtesy of the TCAGO.

Students will be able to play the Gabriel Kney organ at the University of St. Thomas and the Hendrickson organ at the Church of Saint Mark, as well as “mini opus,” our chapter’s demonstration organ. In addition to the hands-on playing opportunities, students will also participate in a short class about how pipe organs are built in the morning session. The two locations are close by to each other; we will be driving from one location to the next and carpooling as needed.

This year we are offering three options for participation:

**option #1 (9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.):** full participation at both venues;

**option #2 (9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.):** morning session only at the University of St. Thomas;

**option #3 (11:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m.):** afternoon session only (includes pizza lunch at the Church of Saint Mark)

Registration is required; find detailed schedules and registration information on the [Events page at TCAGO.org](#) and scroll down to February 17.



A participant at PODD 2023  
photo credit: Phil Asgian

## Professional Enrichment Day 2024

Monday, February 19, Presidents’ Day

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities

4100 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis

Join the TCAGO and Bethlehem Lutheran Church Music Series for a day of professional enrichment. These workshops are intended for vocalists, choral directors, church musicians, and clergy. They are free and open to the public; find details and a link to registration on the [Events page at TCAGO.org](#). *Registration for workshops (free) and lunch (\$20, if lunch is selected) is required by Sunday, February 11.*

*continued on next page*

## Chapter Programming 2023–2024

**Sunday, September 17**

TCAGO Opening Event: *Pipedreams* 40th Anniversary celebration

**Saturday, October 14**

*Pipedreams* Student Scholarship Auditions

**Saturday, October 21**

Saint Paul Organ Crawl

**Sunday, November 19**

Concert, Dinner, and Presentation-Masterclass with Nathan Laube

**Saturday, February 17**

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

**Sunday, February 18**

The King’s Singers (presented by the Bethlehem Music Series)

**Monday, February 19**

Professional Enrichment Day (in partnership with the Bethlehem Music Series and Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities)

**Saturday, March 16**

Before Bach’s Birthday Bash

**Saturday, April 13**

TCAGO Competition in Organ Performance

**Sunday, May 12**

Recital featuring the prize winners of the 2023 North Central Region AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists

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The day begins at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. and includes a workshop with The King's Singers of King's College in Cambridge, England, a box lunch from Cecil's Deli in Saint Paul, and keynote speaker Don Saliers, distinguished professor emeritus from Emory University in Atlanta, presenting *The Lamentable and the Praiseworthy: The Travail of Musical Liturgy Today* (a synopsis is below), with an opportunity for discussion and questions.



Don E. Saliers

Find a link to Don Saliers' biography on the Events page to read about his distinguished and varied career as a professor, minister, musician, author, composer, and chaplain.

**Synopsis of *The Lamentable and the Praiseworthy*:** Christian liturgy and its music, over time, confronts us with an undeniable set of contrasts—between unspeakable joy and deepest sorrow, between death and resurrection. This is life rhythm we find in the psalms and in the seasons of the Christian year. The question in a world of such contrasts in which we now find ourselves is “can the music and the deep pattern the Church’s prayer restore us to the great rhythms of life before God in our time and place?” We live with Dostoyevsky’s question: “Can beauty save us?” These reflections aim to restore the meaning and depth of our liturgical life: lament and doxology, the “full stretch” of the unfathomable riches of God in sound, sense, and ritual action.

## Dean's Column

DAVID JENKINS

Did you know that some 23 of our current chapter members have earned at least one level of AGO certification? Many of your colleagues have taken this opportunity to sharpen their skills and increase their value to their music employers. Since the AGO was founded in 1896 as an educational organization, the comprehensive series of exams for professional certification have been an important benefit to our members.



After serving in the post since 2012, Stephen Self has resigned as our professional certification coordinator. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to express my thanks to Stephen for his devoted service to our members and to the mission of the Guild. I wish him the best in his new endeavors.

I am pleased to announce that Dean Billmeyer has agreed to serve as our new certification coordinator. Dean holds the highest level of certification, Fellow (FAGO) and has served on the National Committee on Professional Certification. Dean is eager to promote the program and support new candidates, you will be hearing more from him in the upcoming months. Dean will hold two positions. The first is a North Central Regional appointment as the coordinator for our chapter exam center. TCAGO is designated as a site for conducting the Fellow, Associate, and Choir Master exams. In addition, Dean will coordinate our local chapter exam process for the Service Playing and Colleague certificates.

I recently had my first opportunity to coordinate a Service Playing exam for one of our members. I witnessed firsthand how much the exam can help the candidate to expand their range of proficiencies, and to gain increased confidence in their church service playing. The exam requirements are clearly spelled out, and the actual recording of the exam follows a very well-scripted process. Gone are the days of submitting CD or taped exam recordings by paper mail. Everything is handled by a smooth digital file upload process.

The AGO has taken several significant recent steps to bring the exam process into the 21st century. Most significantly the AGO has developed webinars and online study groups to assist candidates in their preparation. Also, the AGO has upgraded to an online application process and developed enhanced grading criteria to ensure fairness in the adjudication process. If you would like to read more about the new preparation resources and get more general information about the benefits of certification, I recommend this [ferverino](#) by AGO President Eileen Hunt.





Don't forget to register soon for the [2024 AGO National Convention in San Francisco](#). I am registered already, and I am very excited about the great line up of performers, including Chanticleer and Olivier Latry. San Francisco is a wonderful city, and I am looking forward to the getaway.

## Submission Due Date for *Pípenotes*

The due date for the **March** issue is **February 15**. Please send events for the Members' Calendar, articles, reports of musical events, and any photos to [Jeremy.Haug@mountcalvary.org](mailto:Jeremy.Haug@mountcalvary.org). Share your news with our community!

—The Editor

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

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## A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND



Each year we anticipate the glories of Christmas and celebrate with music of heavenly beauty and great joy. *Christ the Savior is born!* The festivities culminate with Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services. Then rather suddenly musicians and many others take their well-deserved time off, and the traditional ‘Twelve Days’ and seem bereft of jubilation. Before we know it, the winter season has arrived and the liturgical year returns to ‘Ordinary.’

But the importance of our music ministry does not diminish; the power of music continues to bring life and hope to religious communities and to the listening public. Where else can people receive consolation in the face of so much sorrow? Or strength when confronting awful tragedies? Where else is there hope amid disappointments and despair? The hymns of the church, the great choral anthems, and instrumental masterpieces of every generation offer us a chance to hear and proclaim a better day and to press on for a New Year of health, safety, and happiness.

For me, the grey weather and gloomy world news dampened some of the holiday festivities, but the music of worship from countless choir lofts and organ consoles, as well as traditional and ‘popular’ carols, has encouraged me to look ahead to the challenges of this new year. Like a new-born great-grandniece, or the faces of my Palestinian friends’ children, or a beautifully decorated church, or a day of bright sunshine—all around us there are signs of “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.” May the good news of Christmas continue to bless us in the days and weeks ahead.

## TCAGO Competition in Organ Performance

Spread the word to young organists! The deadline to register to compete in the TCAGO Competition in Organ Performance is coming soon—**register online by 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 18.**

The competition will take place on Saturday, April 13, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Avenue South in Saint Paul. The organ is a 3-manual, 60-rank 1959 Casavant/2022 Letourneau with electric key and stop action.

First prize is \$2,500, sponsored by the Schubert Club, and second prize is \$1,000, sponsored by TCAGO member Phil Asgian.

For full details about eligibility, how to register, rules, and repertoire requirements, visit the [Competitions for Young Organists](#) page under the Education tab.

## Before Bach’s Birthday Bash 2024

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Various Saint Paul venues

On Saturday, March 16, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the TCAGO will present the annual Before Bach’s Birthday Bash, a sequence of five hour-long concerts devoted to music by Johann Sebastian Bach, performed this year at various venues in Saint Paul. All events are free (donations accepted) and open to the public. Join us for the entire day or at any of the five individual destinations.

The 9:00 a.m. program will be streamed and broadcast live on YourClassical Minnesota Public Radio network stations (KSJN-99.5FM in the Twin Cities) and co-sponsored by American Public Media’s *Pipedreams*. More information will be available on the TCAGO Events page in the coming weeks.

Enjoy hearing organists Samuel Backman, Nils Halker, Kathrine Handford, David Jenkins, Ju Young Lee, Stacie Lightner, Mark Overman, Catherine Rodland, Emily Roth, Wolfgang RübSam, Tim Strand, and William (Bill) Wilson; as well as additional instrumental performers Charles Asch (cello), Katie Boardman (soprano), Hyein Choi (piano), Ines Guanchez and Osip Nikiforov (piano), Sehee Jeong (piano), Chris Kachian (guitar), Brenda and David Mickens (violin), Charles Yan Ming Lee (violin), Zachariah Mandell (trombone), Koki Sato (piano), and Ruizhi Gabrielle Wang (piano).

**9:00–10:00 a.m.**, featuring the **60-rank 1959**

**Casavant/2022 Letourneau** pipe organ at **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

**10:30–11:30 a.m.**, featuring the **52-rank 2007 Casavant** organ at **Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church**

**11:30 a.m.**, Lunch on your own

**1:00–2:00 p.m.**, featuring the **55-rank 1921 Skinner/2008 Schantz** pipe organ at **St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church**

**2:30–3:30 p.m.**, featuring the **44-rank 1965 Noack** mechanical-action pipe organ at **Unity Unitarian Church**

**4:00–5:00 p.m.**, featuring the **97-rank 1979 C. B. Fisk** mechanical-action pipe organ at **The House of Hope Presbyterian Church**

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## Lenten Service at Mount Olive

Sunday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.

Lent Procession Service of Lessons and Hymns  
Mount Olive Cantorei; David Cherwien, director & organist  
Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

Join Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts for a contemplative service of lessons and carols—for Lent! Typically associated with Advent and Christmas, this service is designed especially for those caught up in preparations for the coming Easter and spring seasons. It provides an opportunity to withdraw from the busy-ness of life to pray, sing, listen, smell—an opportunity to fully enter into the season of Lent, a time to renew our lives as baptized children of God.

This event is free and open to the public. It will also be livestreamed via the church's home page and at the [Mount Olive's YouTube page](#).

This is the fourth event in the 2023–2024 Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts season. For further information on this event and on the Music and Fine Arts program, please contact Dr. Cherwien by email at [cantor@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:cantor@mountolivechurch.org) or at the church office by phone at 612-827-5919.

## VocalEssence Celebrates Black History

VocalEssence WITNESS: Leading With Love  
Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m.

Orchestra Hall  
1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

Every year, VocalEssence celebrates Black History Month through the VocalEssence WITNESS program, culminating in a concert honoring the contributions of African-American artists to our shared culture. Singer, educator, composer, and activist Melanie DeMore will join VocalEssence for this program, which includes new works by contemporary Black composers and songs from the African diaspora.

"This year is the second of a visionary two-year WITNESS artistic journey focusing on the power of love as we engage with struggles in our community tied to the Black experience,"

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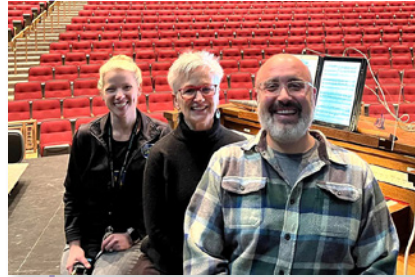
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says G. Phillip Shoultz, III, associate artistic director of VocalEssence. "Last year's theme was 'Reawakening Love,' and now that our hearts are open again, we're calling for the rebirth of peace and the emergence of a community where violence ceases." Tickets are now available at [vocalessence.org](http://vocalessence.org).

## MIXTURES

TCAGO member Peggy Dahl-Bartunek (*below, center*), Rodgers Classic Organs, Minneapolis, provided a two-manual Rodgers Inspire 233 organ and was the organ accompanist for the 53rd Annual St. Michael-Albertville High School Holiday Concert, "And on Earth, Peace," on December 18, 2023.



The choral department at STMA has over 300 students, directed by Joe Osowski (*above, right*) and Paige Armstrong (*above, left*).

During rehearsal, Peggy, pictured below with students, demonstrated the organ. She said, "I brought a real pipe so the students could compare the sound of a windblown pipe to a digital sample. I explained pipe lengths, how a pipe is tuned, the families of pipes, why organists wear shoes, and simply why playing organ is SO much fun! The students were receptive, appreciative, and some seemed quite fascinated! Several students stopped by the organ after the rehearsal to learn more and a few asked how they might learn to play the organ."



Peggy holds a BS in Music Education from the University of North Dakota and was her son's high school choir director. That son, Mike Bartunek, is one of the band directors at STMA, following in her footsteps as a music



educator. Peggy is principal organist and choir accompanist at Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids.

Members may send their news (200 words or less) and photos to the Editor at [Kirsten213@gmail.com](mailto:Kirsten213@gmail.com) (please spell carefully if you're entering the address manually).

## Events Calendar

Events are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Please confirm details of events with the venue before attending.

### FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 4, 4:00 p.m.

Winter Organ Series: Brenda Sevcik, organist

**Como Park Lutheran Church**

1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

Sunday, February 4, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Concert: Philip's Favorites with VocalEssence

Larson Hall, **American Swedish Institute**

2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis

Admission

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

Tuesday Organ Recitals: David Lim, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Sunday, February 11, 2:30 p.m.

Concert: Christopher Ganza, organist

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral**

519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, February 11, 4:00 p.m.

Celebratory Concert Series: Chad Winterfeldt, organist

**First Lutheran Church**

1114 West Traverse Road, St. Peter

Sunday, February 11, 4:00 p.m.

Winter Organ Series: Jeff Patry, organist

**Como Park Lutheran Church**

1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

**TCAGO Event: Saturday, February 17, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

Registration is required by Wednesday, February 14; see page 1.

**Sunday, February 18: Deadline for applications** for the

TCAGO 2024 Competition in Organ Performance; see page 3

Sunday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.

Benefactors Recital: Nicole Keller, organist

**Center for Faith and Life**

Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Sunday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.

Lenten Service of Lessons and Hymns, led by David

Cherwien, organist, and the Mount Olive Cantorei; see page 4

**TCAGO Event: Monday, February 19, 11:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m.**

Professional Enrichment Day 2024

Registration for workshops and lunch is required by Sunday, February 11; see page 2.

Wednesday, February 21, 11:30 a.m. (following 11:00 service)

Music Meditations: Isaac Drewes, organist

**Augustana Lutheran Church**

1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

Wednesday, February 21, 12:30 (following noon Mass)

Noontime Series: Kathrine Handford, organist

**St. Olaf Catholic Church**

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Friday, February 23, 8:00 p.m.

Concert: Greg Zelek, organist; Thomas Mesa, cellist;

preceded by a panel discussion on careers in music in the adjacent SBH Theater at 4:15 p.m.

**Saint John's Abbey and University Church**

2900 Abbey Plaza, Colleagueville

### Save the Date!

The winners of the 2023 North Central Region AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO), Trevor Good (first place) and Aaron Looney (second place), will perform on **Sunday, May 12, at 3:00 p.m.** at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 Snelling Avenue South in Saint Paul. A reception will follow and the event is free and open to the public.

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Saturday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.

Concert: Jacob Benda, organist, with The International Saxophone Quartet  
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas  
**University of St. Thomas**  
Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul

Sunday, February 25, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Trevor Duply, Scott Turkington, and Dean Whiteway perform in collaboration with the Riverland Chapter of the AGO  
**Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman**  
530 Main Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Sunday, February 25, 3:00 p.m.

40th Anniversary Celebration of *Pipedreams* Series:  
Catherine Rodland, organist, with orchestra  
**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
4801 France Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tuesday, February 27, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Andrew Schaeffer, organist  
**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**  
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, February 28, 11:30 a.m. (following 11:00 service)

Music Meditations: Andrew Jacob, organist  
**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

Thursday, February 29, 7:00 p.m.

*Ada/Ava*: Manual Cinema and Aaron David Miller, organist, accompanying live shadow puppetry  
**Northrop**, University of Minnesota  
84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis  
Admission; streaming options

**MARCH**

Tuesday, March 5, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Ju Young Lee, organist  
**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**  
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 6, 11:30 a.m.

Music Meditations: Melanie Ohnstad, organist  
**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

Sunday, March 10, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Andrew McDonald, organist, Madeleine McDonald, mezzo-soprano, and Makenzie Traylor, flutist, perform in collaboration with the Riverland Chapter of the AGO  
**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Tuesday, March 12, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Paul Barte, organist  
**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**  
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 13, 11:30 a.m.

Music Meditations: Aaron Looney, organist (winner of the chapter level round of the 2023 AGO/Quimby Student Scholarship Competition)  
**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

**TCAGO Event: Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Before Bach's Birthday Bash; *see page 3*

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

Chapel Arts Series: *Embodied: The Earthly Immortal Soul and the Battle of Becoming* (a multi-disciplinary concert):  
Kelly Kruse, soprano; Marion Jewish, violinist; Jacob Benda, organist/pianist

The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas

**University of St. Thomas**

Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul

Sunday, March 17, 2:30 p.m.

Concert: Henry Dangerfield, youth organist  
**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral**  
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

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**Special Projects:** (chair vacant); Leonard Danek

## Other Committees and Appointments

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**Placement:** [Jeffrey Patry](#) (w) 763-788-9653, ext. 109, (c) 612-327-9894

**Organ Competition:** [Isaac Drewes](#)

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**Chapter Website:** [www.tcago.org](http://www.tcago.org)

Website Administrators: [David Engen](#) (c) 612-801-8662;

[Kirsten Uhlenberg](#) (h) 651-646-8120

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](http://www.pipedreams.org) or [www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams](http://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:

Emails are best to [mbarone@mpr.org](mailto:mbarone@mpr.org), and 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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