

Pipenotes



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

Vol. 28 No. 9

June 2023

Members' Talent Showcased

On Friday evening, May 12, the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists Chapter presented a Member Recital at Normandale Lutheran Church with nearly 120 audience members in person.

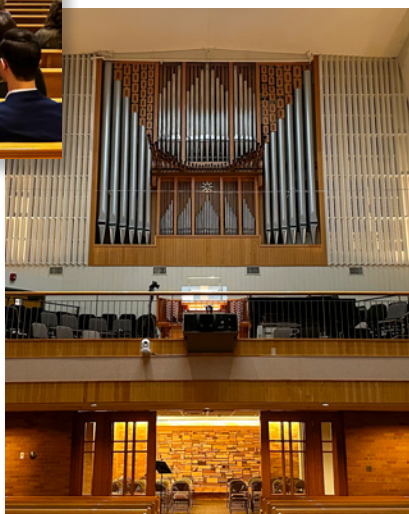


Many thanks to the talented organists Nils Halker, Jean Hellner, David Jenkins, Aaron Looney, Gregory Peterson, Evelyn Rohrbach, Emily Roth, and Kristina Rizzotto, who showcased the 1970 Schlicker pipe organ, renovated by Dobson in 2019 (3 manuals, 85 ranks). Members performed works by Alain, J. S. Bach, Delius, Fedak, Sandresky, Widor, Rizzotto, Lemmens, Reger, and Widor.

John Setterlund and Randy Egan, who hosted the post-concert reception, merit additional praise and thanks.



Furthermore, the TCAGO extends special thanks to the Audio-Visual team and all others from the Normandale staff who supported this event, most notably our gracious host, Gregory Peterson.



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/Presentation 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 15**
Pipe Organ Heritage Committee Field Trip Adventure
- Saturday, April 22**
Pipedreams Organ Scholarship Auditions
- Friday, May 12**
TCAGO Members Recital

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Dean's Column

DAVID JENKINS



Reflecting on another great TCAGO program year, two thoughts come to mind. First, our exceptional lineup of events and activities continue to serve the diverse needs and range

of interests of all our members. Second, the continued success of our chapter relies on the efforts of many volunteers and on the wholehearted support of all its members.

The year was framed by members recitals, September 25 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and May 12 at Normandale Lutheran Church. Among our consistently well-attended and popular events, the recitals provide a performance opportunity for members, bring out a good AGO crowd to hear colleagues and friends play, and they serve as an important outreach to a wider audience. The public outreach of the TCAGO is most clearly exemplified by the annual (Before) Bach's Birthday Bash, held this year at Minneapolis churches. Curated and hosted by Michael Barone, the annual collaboration with MPR and host churches brings out faithful fans of Bach—and of Michael Barone—who brave sometimes snowy, cold conditions to spend a whole day celebrating the music of the great Baroque master. Michael works hard every year to recruit performers and arrange a great series of recitals.

An array of enriching opportunities rounded out the year: a masterclass on hymn playing and service music with Bruce Neswick, a lecture by Jean-Baptiste Robin on French Baroque music and the music of César Franck, and a lecture-recital by Thomas Fielding on Mulet's *Byzantine Sketches*. I wish to extend thanks to Kathy Handford and the program committee for planning and coordinating these programs. Thanks also to Randy Egan and John Setterlund who provided hospitality for the masterclass and the spring members recital.

The TCAGO Education committee, under the fine leadership of Phil Asgian, was very active again this year. They collaborated with MPR's YourClassical Class Notes to produce and promote video lessons on the organ and engaged Isabelle Demers as a teacher for the February Pipe Organ Discovery Day, held at Ferguson Hall and Northrop on the U of M campus. They will also be presenting a workshop at the Regional Convention during which they will share the ways they have worked to build greater interest in the pipe organ in schools and in adult education.

The Pipe Organ Heritage Committee hosted two organ crawls. In the fall we visited important Hendrickson organs in the Twin Cities. In the spring we experienced noteworthy organs in Dinkytown and North Minneapolis. A big thank you to Nils Halker and the POHC for their work.

Other important chapter activities that serve the mission of the AGO: The *Pipedreams* Scholarship committee, under the leadership of Steve Gentile, conducts twice-yearly auditions for scholarship awards to young and adult students. Mary Newton guides the annual chapter level organ playing competition for young organists. This year the chapter level competition was the first step for the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition to be held this summer at the convention. We are proud that our chapter winner, St. Olaf student Aaron Looney, is competing for the opportunity to represent the North Central Region as a Rising Star in the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco.

We cannot take for granted other services our chapter offers to members and the wider public that help promote our profession and the organ. Jeremy Haug is our tireless communications director, who, among his many duties, coordinates the requests for email blasts and Facebook notifications for events promoted by our members. Kirsten Uhlenberg faithfully produces our monthly *Pipenotes* newsletter, and keeps the chapter website updated. Sarah Garner is the graphic designer behind our attractive chapter print and electronic communications. Jeffrey Patry handles both the duties of registrar and our online placement service for job openings. David Engen manages the TCAGO Organ Database, an essential resource for detailed and

Submission Due Date for *Pipenotes*

Pipenotes is not published in July and August.

The due date for the September issue is

August 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

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accurate information on organs around the state and the region. The list of volunteers goes on, I'm sorry if I have missed acknowledging more volunteers who are involved in various ways to make our chapter run well!

I would like to acknowledge the Executive Board members who work behind the scenes to steer the chapter. The class of 2023 board members-at-large whose terms expire this June are Lise Schmidt, Nils Halker, and Kristina Rizzotto. On behalf of the chapter, I'd like to thank them for their dedication. Carolyn Diamond has stepped down as Secretary after one year of excellent service. The board has selected Carolyn to remain on the board and fill for one year the empty seat in the class of 2024. The ever-reliable David Geslin is our long-serving Treasurer who keeps our finances on track. Our chaplain, John Setterlund, brings his wisdom to board deliberations, and provides his thoughtful, inspiring column in *Pípenotes*. And, finally a big thanks to Kathy Handford our Sub-Dean, who has been doing triple duty as sub dean, program chair, and convention co-chair. To everything she undertakes she brings creativity, energy, determination, and whole-hearted dedication to the chapter and the Guild.

Joyce Brown and the Nominations Committee worked hard this year to enlist an excellent slate of candidates for our annual elections. Thanks to her and the committee and to all who were willing to step forward and run for office.

I'm proud to be a member of the TCAGO, and I thank you all for your steadfast support of our community of organ lovers.

A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND

Working Together

In her new book *Declassified: A Low-Key Guide to the High-Strung World of Classical Music* (Putnam, 2022) violinist Arianna Warsaw-Fan Rauch expresses (tongue-in-cheek) some of the frustrations of the music profession: "As long as there have been snobs in the classical music scene, classical musicians have been praying for salvation from

them" (p. 56). She then mentions Mozart's hatred for the archbishop in Salzburg and Bach's contention with Duke Wilhelm Ernst in Weimar.

"But," she continues, "musicians often have to swallow their pride and work for people they hate...I've done my fair share of pride-swallowing...."

Tensions between musicians who serve churches and various other leaders and administrators of congregations are not new. As a church musician and a pastor, I find myself looking at both sides of the issue. It is clear that many clergy lack knowledge, skill, understanding, or appreciation of music. (What AGO member doesn't know that?!) And there seem to be fewer and fewer opportunities for development in those areas at seminaries and divinity schools.

On the other hand, many church musicians lack knowledge, skill, understanding, or appreciation for theology. And what opportunities are now available for musicians to develop facility with biblical and historical theology? Hopefully, denominational music associations, musicians' guilds, and schools of sacred music can provide needed curricula and other resources. Conductors would do well to explain and interpret the texts that their choirs sing, and congregations (and clergy) can benefit from knowing what the prelude or postlude is about.

Martin Luther famously believed that music is next to theology—a medium through which to communicate the truth of scripture. In the best of situations, these facets of the gospel are discussed and nurtured, along with all the other issues of church work, on a day-to-day or week-by-week basis. I encourage church musicians to read their Bible daily, participate in a lectionary-study group, follow an academic journal, check out a denominational or ecumenical periodical, and take time to pray. As we work together, may the Spirit of God bless our efforts!



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2023 TCAGO Election Results

CAROLYN DIAMOND, SECRETARY

Of the 225 eligible voters, 52% submitted ballots, totaling 118 ballots counted.

Officers

Dean: David Jenkins
 Sub-Dean: Kathrine Handford
 Treasure: David Geslin
 Secretary: Lise Schmidt

Members-at-large:

Richard Gray
 Eileen Miller
 Melanie Ohnstad

We offer our congratulations to the winners and will also look forward to enlisting the talents of Simon Pick, Brenda Sevcik, and Trevor Wolter, the three candidates who so willingly offered to serve.

This was the first year of implementing the software, Election Buddy, which enabled most voting members (those with email and/or text capabilities) to vote online. It proved to be very successful.

Volunteering at the Convention

We will need many volunteers as we host the Regional Convention here in Minneapolis/Saint Paul this summer, July 4-7. We will eventually be reaching out to many of you as we define our needs, but in the meantime, if you would like to get on the volunteer list early, contact one of us: Kathy Borgen kmborgen@charter.net or Carolyn Diamond diamondcarolyn99@gmail.com

Join us in showing our guests some great Twin Cities hospitality!

2023 Regional Convention

Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota

Register at www.northcentralago2023.org



All are welcome as we celebrate our love for the organ. All registrations are due by **June 26, 2023**.

The North Central American Guild of Organists (AGO) is pleased to invite you to the following public events as part of the upcoming

regional convention, July 4-7, 2023, held in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Registered attendees to the North Central AGO 2023 Regional Convention includes one general admission ticket.

Tuesday, July 4, 7:00 p.m.

Opening Gala: Organ Concerti Concert
 Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
 2115 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul
Music for organ and orchestra by Paulus, Callahan, and Bach with organists James E. Bobb, Jacob Benda, and Kristina Rizzotto

Wednesday, July 5, 1:30 p.m.

Concert: Catherine Rodland
 Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
 511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis


Wednesday, July 5, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Kathrine Handford
 St. Olaf Catholic Church
 215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Wednesday, July 5, 7:00 p.m.

Organ, Brass, and Choral Concert
 Cathedral of Saint Paul
 239 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul
Music for organ, brass, and choir with organists Lawrence Lawyer, Chris Ganza, and Samuel Backman and the Cathedral Choir, directed by Chris Ganza

continued on next page



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2023 Regional Convention (continued)

Thursday, July 6, 11:30 a.m.

Worship: Lutheran Morning Prayer
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul
with organist Aaron David Miller, soprano Hannah
Armstrong, harpist Rachel Brandwein and Reverend John
Setterlund

Thursday, July 6, 2:00 p.m.

Concert: Julia Brown
St. Mary's Chapel at Saint Paul Seminary
2260 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

Thursday, July 6, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Concert: AGO/Quimby RCYO Competition Winner
Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
2115 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

Thursday, July 6, 7:00 p.m.

Church Opera: *The Three Hermits* by Stephen Paulus
The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul
*One-act opera based on a folk story by Leo Tolstoy
with choir, soloists, organ, and orchestra, conducted by
Matthew Culloton*

Friday, July 7, 1:30 p.m.

Worship: Lutheran Evening Prayer
Augustana Lutheran Church
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul
with organists Richard Erickson and Sarah Garner, Bach
Society of Minnesota musicians, and Reverend Paul
Westermeyer

Friday, July 7, 3:30 p.m.

Concert: Monica Czausz Berney
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

Friday, July 7, 7:30 p.m.

Northrop Celebration, Featuring Wayne Marshall OBE
Northrop, University of Minnesota
84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis
*Celebrated British organist performs music by Ager,
Franck, Jongen, and Roger-Ducasse on the landmark
Æolian-Skinner organ*

Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets: www.northcentralago2023.org/tickets.

Please see the May 2023 issue of Pípenotes, page 5, for a summary of the convention or visit the website, www.northcentralago2023.org.

Join the chapter's growing social media sites!
Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Pipedreams Scholarship Audition Results

The most recent Pipedreams Scholarship audition was held at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Hopkins on Saturday, April 22. Two scholarships were awarded. One to Henry Pawl, right, a student in tenth



grade who recently studied with Stacie Lightner, now a student of Jacob Benda, and one to Sheila Loger, left, organist at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church in Saint Paul. She is a student of Steve Gentile.

The next audition is scheduled for

Saturday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Shepherd of the Hills in Hopkins (sometimes listed as Edina). The deadline for applications is **Monday, October 9**.

Each scholarship is for \$500.00. If you or a student of yours has interest or questions, please check the information on the TCAGO website. Click on Education or contact Steve Gentile at genhen70@msn.com.

Save the Date!

Sunday, September 17, 2:00 p.m.

Fortieth Anniversary of Pipedreams Concert

Music for organ and orchestra

Benson Great Hall, Bethel University

3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

Noontime Recitals in Northfield

RICHARD COLLMAN

Tuesdays, July 12–August 2, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
A variety of Northfield churches

I am pleased to announce the 16th season of the Northfield, Minnesota, Noontime Organ Recitals. All are on Wednesdays, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Some recitals will include a free-will offering to offset publicity expenses.

July 12: Richard Collman, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

July 19: Aaron Looney, Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College

July 26: Noah Klein, Skinner Chapel, Carleton College

August 2: Stephen May, First United Church of Christ

August 9: Joanne Rodland and Donna Paulsen, Northfield United Methodist Church



Rev. Richard Collman, retired minister/musician and coordinator of NNOR

Richard is a member of the TCAGO and its Educational Committee, which organizes and oversees Pipe Organ Discovery Days for students.

Billmeyer Retires



Photo credit: Tony Nelson

On Sunday, April 23, KMSP-TV Fox 9 aired a special segment on Dean Billmeyer by reporter and anchor, Leah Beno: *Legendary University of Minnesota Organist Retires.*

The Twin Cities AGO congratulates Dean Billmeyer on his retirement from the University of Minnesota after serving 41 years as professor of organ and University organist. We salute his achievements as an educator and performer, and his key role in restoring and maintaining Northrop’s historic Æolian-Skinner organ.

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Noontime Recitals in Rochester

Tuesdays, June 6–August 29 (except July 4), 12:15 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Trinity Lutheran Church, in downtown Rochester, is hosting noontime recitals on Tuesdays this summer. The public is invited. Free parking is available, and there will be a free-will offering. No recital will be held on July 4.

- June 6:** Tara Rajanesan, student at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- June 13:** Melanie Ohnstad, Minister of Music and the Arts, Emerita, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis
- June 20:** Tyler Jameson Pimm, Associate Director of Music and Organist, St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, Madison, Wisconsin
- June 27:** Christopher Ganza, Choirmaster-Organist, Cathedral of Saint Paul and Director of Choral Music, St. Agnes School, Saint Paul
- July 11:** Kris Rizzotto, Director of Music, Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- July 18:** Kathrine Handford, Director of Music and Organist, Church of Saint Mark, Saint Paul, and University Organist and Instructor of Organ, Concordia University, Saint Paul
- July 25:** Jeffrey Patry, Director of Music Ministry/Organist, First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights
- August 1:** Lee Afdahl, Director of Music, Emeritus, First Presbyterian Church, Rochester
- August 8:** Brenda Sevcik, Director of Music, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Savage
- August 15:** Hudson Lourenco, First Congregational UCC, Waterloo, Iowa; Bethlehem ELCA, Cedar Falls, Iowa; St. Paul's Episcopal, Trinity ELCA, and Redeemer LCMS, Marshalltown, Iowa
- August 22:** Alexander Meszler, Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- August 29:** Ryan Hulshizer, Organist, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin

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MIXTURES

Carolyn Diamond offers an organ outreach/educational program that she calls the PPPP—Pedals, Pipes, Pasta, and Pinot! And sometimes the appetizers served all start with the letter “P,” too! Usually these gatherings, which she



has done for over ten years, serve as a charitable opportunity for various organizations. Here she is on May 18, 2023, explaining the fascinating features and history of pipe organs to her guests (this group is from Central Lutheran Church), as they learn about the instrument and then listen to a mini recital. She also explains the differences between winded and digital organs as hers is a Johannes/Monarch Organ which was custom made in Ada, Holland in 2006. Fun was had by all!”

Any member may send in one photo and 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.

JUNE

Friday, June 23, noon

Fridays at Noon in June Series: Jeffrey Patry
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
 700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul

Friday, June 30, noon

Fridays at Noon in June Series: Philip Radtke
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
 700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul

JULY

Tuesday, July 4, 4:00 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Concert: Timothy Short,
 carillonneur
 The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

continued on next page

VocalEssence: Together We Sing



Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director

For this upcoming 2023–24 season, VocalEssence will collaborate with the St. Olaf Choir, the Bach Society of Minnesota, and Northrop, as well

as exciting commissions by vocal activist Melanie DeMore, Latvian composer Ēriks Ešņvalds, and Minnesotans Jocelyn Hagen and Kyle Pederson.

September 24, 4:00 p.m.

Fifty-fifth Anniversary Community Sing
Celebrating Philip Brunelle's 80th birthday

October 29, 4:00 p.m.

VocalEssence and The St. Olaf Choir
Music will include a performance of Requiem by José Maurício Nuñez-García and the premiere of a new commission composed by Jocelyn Hagen.

December 9, 4:00 p.m.

December 10, 4:00 p.m.

Welcome Christmas
VocalEssence presents new and familiar carols, including the world premiere of three Latvian carols by composer Ēriks Ešņvalds

December 15, 7:30 p.m.

December 16, 4:00 p.m.

Bach's Christmas Oratorio
A collaboration between the Bach Society of Minnesota and the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

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

Philip's Favorites
Hear the music of beloved composers, including Dominick Argento, Stephen Paulus, John Rutter, Libby Larsen, Melanie DeMore, Eric Whitacre, and more

March 17, 4:00 p.m.

WITNESS: Leading with Love
Choral and orchestral music by African American composers or influenced by African American culture

Events Calendar (continued)

Sunday, July 9, 4:00 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Concert: Povl Balslev, carillonneur

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

Sunday, July 16, 4:00 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Concert: Keiran Cnatilina, carillonneur

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

Sunday, July 23, 4:00 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Concert: John Widmann, carillonneur

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

Sunday, July 30, 4:00 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Concert: Wesley Arai, carillonneur

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

AUGUST

Sunday, August 6, 4:00 p.m.

Noyes Memorial Carillon Concert: Ellen Dickinson, carillonneur

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
 797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

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Class of 2024: Isaac Drewes, Kristina Langlois

Class of 2025: Samuel Holmberg, Ju Young Lee, Mary Newton

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

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Standing Committees

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Pipe Organ Heritage: [Nils Halker](#) (h) 651-488-2157, (w) 651-221-4736;

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Chapter Website: www.tcago.org

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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:

Emails are best to 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.

TCAGO

C/O DAVID J GESLIN

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