

Pipenotes



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

Vol. 29 No. 6

March 2024

Before Bach's Birthday Bash 2024

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

Various Saint Paul venues

THE 2024 EDITION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!



Our annual Before Bach's Birthday Bash promises a multiplicity of talent and musical experiences. The usual sequence of five hour-long concerts devoted to music by Johann Sebastian Bach this year includes some new performers and new venues. All events are free (donations accepted) and the general public is invited to participate, either for the entire day or at any of the five individual destinations.

At 9:00 a.m. the celebration begins at [Gloria Dei Lutheran Church](#) (700 Snelling Avenue South) and features a new 60-rank 1959 Casavant/2022 Létourneau organ. This event will be streamed and broadcast live on all YourClassical Minnesota

Public Radio network stations (KSJN-99.5FM in the Twin Cities) and co-sponsored by American Public Media's *Pipedreams*. Hear organists Nils Halker, Timothy Strand, and Samuel Backman; violinists Brenda and David Mickens; pianists Koki Sato, Osip Nikiforov, and Ines Guanchez; and cellist Charles Asch.

At 10:30 a.m. we travel to nearby [Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church](#) (1938 Stanford Avenue) to hear the 52-rank 2007 Casavant organ played by Catherine Rodland, Stacie Lightner, and Wolfgang RübSam, with flutist Donna Hryniewicki and violinist Charlotte Yan Ming Lee.

After a 90-minute lunch break, at 1:00 p.m. we visit [St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church](#) (60 Kent Street North) for performances on the 1921 Skinner/2008 Schantz organ featuring organists Richard Gray, Emily Roth, and Bill Wilson, with pianist Sehee Jeong, soprano Katie Boardman, and trombonist Zachariah Mandell.

At 2:30 p.m. our next stop is [Unity Church-Unitarian](#) (733 Portland Avenue) with its 44-rank 1965 Noack organ, one of the earliest large modern mechanical-action instruments to be installed in the Twin Cities. Performers here include organists Mark Overman, David Jenkins, and Thomas Ferry, as well as guitarist Chris Kachian, and pianists Ruochen Xi and Ruizhi Gabrielle Wang.

At 4:00 p.m. we'll wrap up at [The House of Hope Presbyterian Church](#) (797 Summit Avenue) to hear Hyein Choi play the Bösendorfer Imperial Grand and the 97-rank 1979 C. B. Fisk put through its paces by Kathrine Handford and Ju Young Lee, concluding BBBB 2024 with Bach's magnificent Passacaglia in c minor.

Please share information about this on social media with all your friends and neighbors (and others!). We hope for the best weather...knowing that we do have the very best music!!

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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Dean's Column

DAVID JENKINS

The exciting prospect of hearing the King's Singers live in concert prompted me to look through my CD collection for their recordings. I don't know what it is about



the sound of close harmony male singing groups that attracts me, across a whole range of genres from classical to pop to jazz, Motown and classic rock. I found only a couple of King's Singers recordings, but on the a cappella side I also found, of course, Chanticleer and Cantus. I have a CD by The Nylons, and I'll stretch the category to count Manhattan Transfer, but I would also include in the a cappella jazz and pop category the Pentatonix, the Swingle Singers, Take 6, and Straight No Chaser. If we mix in my classic rock and Motown CDs the horizons broaden to include The Beach Boys, The Bee Gees, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, The Eagles, and more. (I do not apologize for being a Boomer.) Last fall we had the opportunity to see the *Jersey Boys* musical performed at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater. So, I would add Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons to the mix. These groups all feature male singers using a wide vocal range from counter tenor or falsetto down to sometimes very low bass.

The King's Singers are certainly the preeminent long-time "classical" a cappella ensemble, owing their characteristic sound to the style of singing instilled in them by Sir David Willcocks, their director of music at King's College. A less well-known influence on the King's Singers was the all-male German ensemble the Comedian Harmonists, a highly successful music group in Europe before World War II. One of my favorite King's Singers CDs is called *A Tribute to the Comedian Harmonists* (1985). The recording includes a wide range of styles characteristic of their German inspiration, from folk to American musicals, to humorous send ups of classical favorites like the *Barber of Seville* overture and *Flight of the Bumblebee*.

In their concert last Sunday, the King's Singers displayed the incredible range for which there is no peer, from Renaissance polyphony, to pop, jazz, and folk, and to new music

commissioned by the group. They clearly embodied their mission to bring joy and beauty through performing music in all kinds of style and across a wide cultural spectrum, in a way that inspires and unites their audiences in a profound way. At the workshop the following morning we also experienced the sincere joy they bring to coaching other choirs. And to cap it all off in the afternoon we had an inspiring reflection from Don Saliers that tied the experience together in a deeper way. He reminded us of the power of song united with words, from the Hebrew psalms to the present—the power to express holy joy and to transform all suffering.

To brighten your Lent here is a selection of favorite King's Singers recordings from their light side:

Veronika, der Lenz ist da (Veronica, spring is here), a light-hearted spring romp from *A Tribute to the Comedian Harmonists*.

Humpty Dumpty/Old King Cole/The Grand Old Duke of York, a crazy mash up of children's songs from the recording *Kids' Stuff*, a fun collaboration with Dame Judi Dench from 1986.

You Are the New Day, an anthem of hope from 1980 that got a new video presentation during the pandemic shutdown. Here is that close, precise, clean, perfectly blended sound for which the ensemble is famous. Five of the singers in this video are the artists who performed at the concert at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND



With the fateful words of Lent still echoing—"Dust to dust"—and the Satanic challenging of even God's beloved Son, this season reminds us that we cannot survive business-as-usual. Job's friends promise him forgiveness and happiness, if he will only acknowledge God. But the divine presence brings little relief. Good people, like all humanity, are not free from trouble.

We see this as the cross of Calvary displays God's intentions for us. What is a cursed instrument of torture stands as a sign of victory over the great powers of death and destruction. Through the whole ministry of Jesus, his crucifixion, and his resurrection, God's ultimate purposes for the world are brought into view. No wonder the fourth gospel speaks so eloquently of the redemptive gifts of the cross: "so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ... I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

This outlines God's mission for the Christian, but Isaiah reminds us, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth." May our Lenten prayer continue: *O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

Submission Due Date for *Pipenotes*

The due date for the **April** issue is **March 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

St. Helena Hosts Andrew Tessman

Saturday, March 23, 5:00 p.m.

Andrew Tessman, organist

[The Church of St. Helena](#)

3204 East 43rd Street, Minneapolis

Andrew Tessman, a past member of St. Helena Parish, began organ lessons with Steve Gentile, who was long-time Director of Music at the church. After graduating in 2006 from the Academy of Holy Angels in Richfield, Tessman worked for



The Church of St. Helena

several years as organist and accompanist around the Twin Cities, primarily at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Minneapolis. In 2013 he moved to Bayreuth, Germany, where he obtained his Bachelor of Music in organ performance; further studies followed in Liège, Belgium. Currently he works as an organist in Düsseldorf.

The program includes a trio sonata by J. S. Bach, Michael Burkhardt's Partita on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," *Messe de Mariage* by Dubois, Scherzo by Kleesattel, and two works by H. H. Parry.

The concert has no admission charge and is open to the public; there will be a freewill offering.

COMING NEXT MONTH: Look for the *Pipe Organ Discovery Day* and *Professional Enrichment Day* event recaps in the April issue of *Pípenotes*!

Save the Date!

The winners of the 2023 North Central Region AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO), Trevor Good and Aaron Looney, 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.

Sing Joyfully: Twin Cities Children's Choir Festival

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

[Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church](#)

511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis

Sally Messner, Director of Worship and Music at HAUMC, invites you and the children in your congregation and life to participate in a children's choir festival.

The choir is open to children in church choirs, community choirs, or kids who simply love to sing. The day is geared toward kids in grades 2 through 6, but enthusiastic and motivated kindergarteners or first-graders are also welcome to register. If you are a parent or guardian registering an individual child, please know that there will be many caring and energetic volunteers to help shepherd your child throughout the day.

In the morning, the choir will rehearse with Phillip Shoultz, associate artistic director of VocalEssence and cantor at Westwood Lutheran Church, and Kristine Denton, collaborative pianist. The choir will take breaks for a snack and games. During this time, church musicians may take advantage of two continuing education opportunities with Choristers Guild sacred music editor Katie Houts and Mount Olive Lutheran children's choir director Mari Espeland. After lunch, which will be provided for all, directors are invited to attend an open rehearsal with the choir. An ecumenical hymn festival, open to the public, will begin at 2:00 p.m. The hymn festival will be led by the children's choir, Phillip Shoultz, Kristine Denton, organist Phillip Radtke (assistant to the director of the Minnesota Boychoir and cantor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church), and Elizabeth Macaulay (lead pastor at Hennepin Avenue UMC).

Registration is at [this link](#) on the Eventbrite website until **March 20**. The registration fee (\$10/child, \$20/adult) includes music and other materials, a t-shirt, lunch, and snacks. If the registration fee is beyond your budget, contact Sally Messner at 612-435-1319, as cost should not be a barrier to participating in this event. Feel free to reach out with questions, and please send this along to others in your circles.

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Northrop Presents Anna Lapwood

Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. CT

Carlson Family Stage, Northrop, University of Minnesota

84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

In-person & livestream; on-demand through April 7



Anna Lapwood, organist of the Royal Albert Hall in London, UK, famous for her viral midnight rehearsals on TikTok, brings humor and youthful joie de vivre to her instrument. Her program will include a suite from Hans Zimmer's *Interstellar* and an exploration of the plethora of colors found on the Northrop organ—from the softest flutes in Debussy's *Clair de Lune* to the most earth-shattering fortissimo in Philip Glass's *Mad Rush*, plus Florence Price's jazz-soaked organ music, masterpieces from Bach and Vierne, and musical storytelling from the young Armenian composer Kristina Arakelyan.

Visit [Northrop's website](#) to find tickets and more information.

Eclectic Music Honoring the Earth

Sunday, April 14, 4:00 p.m.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents a concert by Angelica Encore Choral Ensemble, conducted by Nancy Grundal. The ensemble is a mixed vocal, auditioned community choir providing a continuing choral experience for Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs (ACYC) alumni as well as musicians throughout the Twin Cities since 2011.

Encore strives to illuminate an individual's life-long connection to singing and is committed to continuing the high

choral standards set forth by the ACYC ensembles. Join us for this eclectic spring program of music about the earth!

A reception in the church's Chapel Lounge follows the concert. This event is free and open to the public; a freewill offering may be received to support the Music and Fine Arts program.

This is the fifth 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 at the church office by email at cantor@mountolivechurch.org or by phone at 612-827-5919.



Is 2024 Your Year to Get Certified?

DEAN BILLMEYER, FAGO

A word of greeting to my colleagues in the TCAGO! Although I retired from my faculty position at the University of Minnesota last spring, I remained on staff at Northrop for this year as the organist/curator of our beloved Aeolian-Skinner, and I am delighted to be taking on the role of AGO Certification Coordinator for the Twin Cities Chapter.

In this role I would like to add a few thoughts about AGO Certification to Dean David Jenkins' excellent column in the February *Pipenotes*. I too thank my friend and colleague Stephen Self, FAGO, for his twelve years of service in this role. And, as David wrote, I recommend to you [President Eileen Hunt's column](#) in the January issue of *The American Organist*.

As did President Hunt, I took my AGO certification exams when I was a graduate student, and I found the challenges of these tests to be a great complement to my academic studies. I served on the national Committee on Professional Certification from 2006–2013, and since that time I have been a member of the "Board of Examiners"—the people who listen

continued on next page

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Is 2024 Your Year to Get Certified?

continued from previous page

to and adjudicate recordings of Service Playing and Colleague tests each year. And in the years since my service on the committee, I have also written numerous tests questions for the Guild exams.

The recent developments and “upgrades” to the **certification program** that David and Eileen discuss are exciting additions to what was already a very rich set of educational resources that the Guild offers. Especially impressive is the set of **webinars** on various aspects of different levels of the Guild exams. I encourage you to explore these and other educational resources, regardless of whether you intend to take a Guild exam or not.

I can echo David’s and Eileen’s observations that the certification program can be an effective enhancement for a church musician’s study. In my work as a teacher and examiner I have found it especially gratifying to see how this program can assist organists at all levels of ability and experience and of any age.

So if you are interested in this program and in taking a Guild exam this year or in the future, let me be a resource for you! Keep in mind upcoming deadlines: **March 15** to apply for the May 2024 Colleague Exam, and **April 1** to apply to take the Associate, Fellow, or Choir Master exam in June. I would be more than happy to discuss the program and exams at all levels with you at any time. You can easily reach me by email at dwb@umn.edu or by phone or text at 952-992-9258.




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Events Calendar

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

MARCH

Sunday, March 3, 9:45 a.m. (between services)

Marcel Dupré’s *Symphonie-Passion* (Crucifixion and Résurrection movements), Brian Williams, organist
St. Olaf Lutheran Church

306 Second Street Northwest, Austin

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; Makenzie Traylor, flutist
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 TCAGO chapter-level round of the 2023 AGO/Quimby Student Scholarship Competition)

Augustana Lutheran Church

1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

Thursday/Friday, March 14/15, 7:00 p.m.

The Cameraman: Peter Krasinski, organist, accompanying the 1928 silent film



Cappella Performing Arts Center

721 King Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Admission

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

Before Bach’s Birthday Bash; see page 1

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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 Judish, 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

Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m.

VocalEssence WITNESS: Leading With Love
Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
Admission

Tuesday, March 19, 12:35 p.m.

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

Wednesday, March 20, 11:30 a.m.

Music Meditations: Catherine Rodland, organist
Augustana Lutheran Church
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

Saturday, March 23, 5:00 p.m.

Concert: Andrew Tessman, organist
The Church of St. Helena
3204 East 43rd Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m.

Film scores on the Wurlitzer + virtual instrument technology: Nathan Avakian, organist and improviser
Phipps Center for the Arts
109 Locust Street, Hudson, Wisconsin
Admission

Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.

John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*: Cathedral Choir; Raymond Johnston, director and organist
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

APRIL

Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Northrop Concert: Anna Lapwood, organist; *see page 4*

Tuesday, April 9, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Dean Billmeyer
Church of Saint Louis, King of France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

Concert: Joseph Trucano, organist
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
3920 Victoria Street North, Shoreview

TCAGO Event: Saturday, April 13, 9:30 a.m.

TCAGO 2024 Competition in Organ Performance
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul
The public is invited to listen in during the competition; the hours are TBD.

Saturday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Chapel Arts Series: Loretto Aramendi, organist
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
University of St. Thomas
Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul

Saturday, April 13, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Scott Turkington, organist
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.

Orchestra Concert: Mississippi Valley Orchestra; (program includes Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony)
Benson Great Hall, Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

Tuesday, April 16, 12:35 p.m.

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

Wednesday, April 17, 12:30

Noontime Series: Joshua Lindgren, organist
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Tuesday, April 23, 12:35 p.m.

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

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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.

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