

# Pipenotes



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

Vol. 28 No. 8

May 2023

## Members Recital

Friday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.

Normandale Lutheran Church

6100 Normandale Road, Edina

Mark your calendar for our annual Members Recital, featuring organists Nils Halker, Jean Hellner, David Jenkins, Aaron Looney, Gregory Peterson, Kristina Rizzotto, Evelyn Rohrbach, and Emily Roth, who will showcase the 1970 Schlicker pipe organ, renovated by Dobson in 2019 (3 manuals, 81 ranks) with works by Alain, J. S. Bach, Fedak, Lemmens, Reger, Rizzotto, Sandresky, and Widor.

All are welcome to this free event, and it is open to the public. Donations appreciated. The event will conclude with a post-concert reception.

## Biographies of Performers

**Nils C. Halker II** has been Parish Organist of Saint Clement's Episcopal Church in Saint Paul since 2006. He is active in the Organ Historical Society, having served on the planning committee for the 2017 national convention held in Minnesota. Additionally, he is an at-large editor of the Society's national journal, *The Tracker*. He serves on the program planning committee for the Æolian-Skinner organ in the University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium, on the boards of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and of the Young People's Symphony Concert Association of the Minnesota Orchestra, and is chair of TCAGO's Pipe Organ Heritage Committee. He and his family live in Saint Paul's Como Park neighborhood.

**Jean Marie Hellner** is an active performer and scholar in the Fargo-Moorhead area. She currently serves as organist at Peace Lutheran Church in Fargo and is the collaborative pianist and organist for the Minnesota State University Moorhead choirs. Jean holds degrees from the University of North Texas, The Florida State University, and Luther College. She studied organ with Peter Nygaard and piano with Rosario Marciano and John Strauss. While at North Texas, Jean played with the new music ensemble (NOVA) and centered much of her research on new music. As a scholar-performer, Jean has given numerous lecture recitals in the United States and Europe. She is also a community activist, being a co-founder of the Community Orchestra Academy and the Edvard Grieg Society of the Dakotas. She serves as treasurer and archivist for the Red River Theatre Organ Society.

**David Jenkins** retired last June after serving 34 years in music ministry at the Saint Paul Seminary, and as an instructor in organ and harpsichord for the University of St. Thomas. He earned a DMA in Organ Performance and the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He also studied at Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Iowa, and was awarded a Marshall

## 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

Members Recital

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Fellowship for organ study in Copenhagen. His teachers have included Howard Don Small, Garth Peacock, Delbert Disselhorst, Grethe Krogh, and Russell Saunders. Jenkins is Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and has previously served in various other roles for the chapter, including Sub-Dean, executive board member-at-large, and on the program and professional concerns committees.

**Aaron Looney** is currently a junior at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in church music with an organ emphasis under Catherine Rodland. A native of Bridgewater, Virginia, Aaron's musical interests began at the age of five on the piano before shifting to a passion for organ and choral singing. Aaron performs regularly at St. Olaf and in the Twin Cities on the organ and has the privilege of singing with and managing the St. Olaf Choir. Aaron currently serves as Student Organist at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota.

Earlier this year, Aaron was the winner of the 2023 TCAGO chapter competition held in conjunction with the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists (RCYO). This allows him to compete at the regional level during the North Central Regional Convention held in the Twin Cities. The competition will be held at the Church of Saint Louis, King of France in Saint Paul on July 4th.

**Gregory Peterson** is Director of Worship and Music at Normandale Lutheran Church and Professor of Music and College Organist Emeritus at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Prior to his tenure at Luther, Peterson was Organist and Minister Music at the Old South Church in Boston, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music and Christ Chapel Organist at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, and a visiting professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. He earned the BA degree in music at Luther College, the MM degree from Yale University and the DMA degree in organ performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa.

**Evelyn Rohrbach**, 18, of Hammond, Wisconsin, began studying piano at the age of six, organ at twelve, and has worked as a church organist and pianist since twelve. She currently studies with Stephan Hamilton, and her past teachers include Christa Rakich and Laura Edman. Evelyn is a two-time recipient of the TCAGO Scholarship and performed a solo recital for the TCAGO historic organ tour in 2021. She is the organist at First Congregational UCC in Menomonie, Wisconsin. Evelyn will be in Paris this July enrolled in the French repertoire master classes held at Ste. Clotilde by master teacher Olivier Penin. This fall, Evelyn will be attending the Jacob School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington, studying organ with Janette Fishell, chair of the organ department, as a full-scholarship student.

Latvian Brazilian **Kristina Rizzotto** has played concerts in Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and throughout the United States. She was named a member of *The Diapason's* 20 Under 30 Class of 2017, which recognizes young leaders in the fields of organ, harpsichord, carillon, and church music. Rizzotto is also a self-published composer for organ, choir, and piano, with emphasis in sacred repertoire for religious services. All her compositions are available at krisrizzotto.com, including original hymn introductions and reharmonizations for free download (PDF). Rizzotto is the Director of Music at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and she was previously the organist at the Benedictine Abbey of Rio de Janeiro, built in 1590 and home of one of the oldest organs in South America.

**Emily R. E. Roth** began her organ studies in high school under the tutelage of Lee Afdahl in Rochester, Minnesota. After receiving a scholarship offer from the University of Iowa, she began studying organ full time with Gregory Hand. Furthering her studies with Dean Billmeyer at the University of Minnesota, she is currently working towards her master's degree. Along with her musical studies, her other interests include painting, singing, and performing popular music.

### Submission Due Date for *Pipenotes*

The due date for the June issue is **May 15**. Please send events for the Events 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*

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## Dean's Column

DAVID JENKINS

It would be hard for me to choose which of the musical events at the regional convention I most eagerly anticipate. The rare opportunity to hear the brilliant British organist Wayne Marshall OBE play the mighty Æolian-Skinner organ at Northrop is high on the list. So is the unique chance to hear Stephen Paulus' spiritually moving church opera *The Three Hermits* performed at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church under the direction of Matthew Culloton. The concert of music for choir and organs in the sonic opulence of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, featuring resident talents Lawrence Lawyer, Chris Ganza, and Sam Backman, will be another experience that is not to be missed. Plus, there will be a wonderful variety of solo organ recitals and worship music presented by Monica Czausz Berney, Julia Brown, Kathrine Handford, Catherine Rodland, and more—all on exciting landmark Twin Cities pipe organs.

However, I am very much looking forward to the opening concert of organ concertos at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of St. Thomas. I am especially pleased that we can present the Organ Concerto by James Callahan that was premiered April 24, 2022, at a concert celebrating his 80th birthday. Dr. Callahan will return to the podium to conduct his work, scored for organ, strings, percussion, and horn. Jacob Benda, St. Thomas' chapel organist and adjunct music faculty member, will reprise his premiere performance. The concert will also feature an organ concerto by another Minnesota son, Stephen Paulus, with organist Kris Rizzotto and conductor William Eddins. The program is rounded out by a Bach clavichord concerto performed by St. Olaf professor James Bobb.

Jim Callahan is among the wonderful colleagues whom I enjoyed working with over my years at St. Thomas. I admire him for his considerable achievements over a long career at St. Thomas, including his impactful teaching and mentoring of many students, his creativity as a composer and brilliance as a performer, his leadership of the St. Thomas organ recital series and the Sacred Arts Festival, and his unheralded, faithful custody of the Kney pipe organ that he helped secure for St. Thomas in 1987. Awarded the rank of

Professor Emeritus, Jim retired from St. Thomas in 2006 after 38 years of teaching, including a term as chair of the music department. He also has served the TCAGO in many capacities, including Dean from 2010 to 2012.

I have had many memorable collaborations with Jim over the years, too numerous to mention here. In 1996 I played the Kney organ in the orchestra for performances of Jim's church opera *Processions*. The opera was composed specially for performances in the St. Thomas Chapel and included St. Thomas choral ensembles and faculty soloists and instrumentalists. The stirring opera plumbs the responses of people of faith in the face of terrible human evil. For one scene set in a church under attack by revolutionary terrorists, Jim asked me to play "the organist," providing some background music. During the scene, an officer orders his soldiers to "stop" the organ music. So, in my one and only "operatic debut," I had to suddenly stop playing in the middle of Bach's organ chorale on *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, acting as if I had been shot. Moving from the depths of terror to the heights of the transcendent, we once collaborated in a concert of Messiaen's music at the chapel. He and his cousin, pianist Kathy Faricy, offered a totally captivating performance of Messiaen's two-piano work *Visions of the Amen*.

Jim has a finely tuned ear for musical color, exemplified in performances like the *Visions*. His ear also gives him an insatiable curiosity for exploring music timbre in his compositions. Michael Barone aired the premiere of the organ concerto on the February 17 *Pipedreams* show. In the recorded interview that preceded, Jim explained that his first step in composing is imagining what special sonorities can come from the combination of instruments with which he is working. You will certainly hear many evocative and unique sounds in the concerto, including the fluttering and squeaking of supernatural bats!

If you are still on the fence about whether to come to the convention, hesitate no longer! You will not want to miss the Callahan organ concerto and all the other exciting musical offerings packed into four busy days.

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## A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND

### Newness of Life

In the midst of the Easter season—a time that celebrates resurrection, rebirth, and the springing-up of forgotten flowers—we may be asking “What is new life?” Once again Jews remember their ancestors’ miraculous redemption from slavery, and Muslim pilgrims stone the pillars of evil. Once again Christians sing out “Christ is risen indeed!” But then what? Paradise doesn’t appear overnight, nor does warfare cease. Many of the hoped-for results of divine intervention seem to have been postponed for a future age. The history of faithful believers has not proved to be always idyllic or triumphant. Rather, life can be a real struggle and is always limited. In the words of a famous anthem, part of the Anglican burial rite, “In the midst of life we are in death.” Human life and death continue.

Easter is, however, a time for spiritual and ethical growing. The ‘Good News’ bestows on us a spirit of renewed commitment to peace, charity, humility, and service. We need not fear death, and we can move beyond even the Covid curse with some care and confidence. Receiving the gifts of redemption and forgiveness, we can forgive others, even our ‘enemies’ and work for a better society. We can encourage patience and kindness. As hosts for the Regional Convention in July, let us extend our many blessings to friends, neighbors, and all visitors.

## 2023 RCYO TCAGO Chapter Competition Winner

MARY NEWTON



Aaron Looney (left) was named the winner of the TCAGO chapter level round of the 2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists. The competition was

held Saturday, March 25, at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on the University of St. Thomas campus in Saint Paul. Aaron, a junior at St. Olaf College, won the first prize of \$1,000, sponsored by the Schubert Club of Saint Paul. He will compete again during the 2023 North Central Regional AGO Convention in the Twin Cities at the Church of Saint Louis, King of France in Saint Paul on July 4th. The judges were Allan Mahnke, Laura Edman, and Steve Self (left to right).



Aaron Looney is a junior at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in church music with an organ emphasis under Catherine Rodland. A native of Bridgewater, Virginia, Aaron’s musical interests began at the age of five on the piano before shifting to a passion for organ and choral singing.

Aaron performs regularly at St. Olaf and in the Twin Cities on the organ and has the privilege of singing with and managing the St. Olaf Choir. Aaron currently serves as Student Organist at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota. Congratulations, Aaron!

### 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](mailto:kmborgen@charter.net) or Carolyn Diamond [diamondcarolyn99@gmail.com](mailto:diamondcarolyn99@gmail.com)

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

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## 2023 Regional Convention

Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota

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The 2023 North Central AGO Regional Convention will provide you the opportunity to celebrate our North Star State identity with great music for the pipe organ—in solo concerts, in worship, and with

choirs and orchestra. The exciting and varied venues in the Twin Cities, with their noteworthy pipe organs, will be the setting for outstanding performers of the highest artistic standard, and for informative, relevant workshops. The Regional Convention will bring us together for unique musical experiences, continuing education, professional development, time with colleagues and friends, and the chance to experience the vibrant Twin Cities cultural scene.

Our convention headquarters is located in the heart of downtown Minneapolis, in the Hilton Hotel on Marquette Avenue. The Regional Convention will bring us together for continuing education, professional development, and time with colleagues and friends. It will also provide attendees the opportunity to celebrate our regional identity with music for organ, choirs, and other instruments. We will explore many venues in the Twin Cities; while hosting recitals and concerts by outstanding performers of the highest artistic standard and ensuring workshops are relevant, informative, and challenging you.

In addition to the many exciting performances outlined on page 3 by our dean, David Jenkins, a dozen or so workshops are planned, presented by a wide array of knowledgeable musicians and professionals:

James Abbingon: *Choral and Organ Music by Black Composers*

J. W. Arnold: *Publicity, Marketing and Social Media Strategies for Chapters, Churches, and Concert Artists*

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Phil Asgian: *Expanding Educational Programming and Outreach Around the Pipe Organ*

Marilyn Biery: *New Releases for Organ from Augsburg Fortress*

Dean Billmeyer: *Professional Certification through the AGO—How You Can Make This Program Work for You*

Rick Erickson: *Bach Cantatas: Celebrating the 300th Anniversary*

David Heller: *Where are we now? Organ Pedagogy in 2023*

Sheri Masiakowski: *Solo Organ Works of Sr. Theophane Hytrek OSF*

Mary Newton: *Member Forum led by North Central American Guild of Organists Regional Councillor*

Alexis VanZalen: *Rethinking French Baroque Organ Music*

Documentary film showing: *Northrop: Past, Present and Future*

GIA Publications Choral Music Reading Session: led by Zack Stachowski, Bex Gaunt, Marilyn Biery, and James Biery

Panel from the Department of Otolaryngology of Mayo Clinic: *Sound Advice: Musicians' Ears—Practicing for Healthy Hearing*

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

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## Events Calendar

Please confirm details of events with the venue before attending.

### MAY

Saturday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Chapel Arts Series: Jacob Benda, organist; University of St. Thomas Orchestra, Matthew George, director

The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas

**University of St. Thomas**

Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul

Sunday, May 7, 3:00 p.m.

Samuel Backman, organist

**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

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

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Simon Pick, organist

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

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

**Friday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. (TCAGO Event)**

Members Recital

**Normandale Lutheran Church**

6100 Normandale Road, Edina

Saturday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

Season Finale: Cathedral Choir, Choral Society and Orchestra, Raymond Johnston, director

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral**

519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

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

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Kathrine Handford, organist

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

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, May 17, 12:30 p.m.

Noontime Series Final Concert: Richard Gray

**St. Olaf Catholic Church**

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, May 21, 3:00 p.m.

Stephen Self, organist

**Wayzata Community Church**

125 Wayzata Boulevard East, Wayzata

Sunday, May 21, 4:00 p.m.

John Schultz, organist

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

1884 22nd Street NW, Rochester

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

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Richard Gray, organist

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

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Friday, May 26, 3:00 p.m.

Graduate Recital: Sophie Martinez, organist

**Christ Chapel**, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter

Friday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.

Silent Film, *Wings* (1927), accompanied by pipe organ:

Peter Krasinsky, organist

**Cappella Performing Arts Center** (formerly a church)

721 King Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin

### JUNE

Sunday, June 4, 3:00 p.m.

Raymond Johnston, organist

**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Saturday, June 10, 4:00 p.m.

Bach Tage Concert: Joseph Trucano, organist

**Mount Olive Lutheran Church**

3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

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

Bach Tage: Evening Prayer Service

David Cherwien, organist; Kathy Romey, conductor

**Mount Olive Lutheran Church**

3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis





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

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**Advertising:** [Paul Lohman](#) 800-326-7426

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**Calendar Coordination / Events Scheduling:** [Michael Barone](#) (w) 651-290-1539, (h) 651-228-9885

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**Guild Examinations:** [Stephen Self](#) (h) 651-481-3297, (c) 651-402-9043

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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

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## 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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