

Pipenotes



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

Vol. 29 No. 8

May 2024

AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) Winners Recital

Sunday, May 12, 3:00 p.m.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul

In 2023, sixteen separate chapter-level competitions were held between February 11 and April 23, 2023. Each chapter-level competition winner advanced to a regional-level competition, and six regional winners were awarded. On July 3, 2024, the regional winners—now AGO Rising Stars—will perform at First Congregational Church in Berkeley, California, in conjunction with the AGO National Convention in San Francisco.

TCAGO is pleased to present in recital Trevor Good and Aaron Looney, first and second place winners, respectively, in the July 2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists held at Church of Saint Louis, King of France, during the North Central AGO 2023 Regional Convention. A reception follows the concert, which is free and open to the public



Originally from Springfield, Illinois, Trevor Good (left), is the organist at the Church of the Resurrection-Brookside in Kansas City, Missouri, and a student organ scholar at the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center in Lawrence, Kansas. He is enrolled at the University of Kansas where

he pursues a degree in Organ Performance under the direction of Dr. James Higdon. Having won last summer's AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in Saint Paul, Minnesota, he will perform this summer at the AGO National Convention in San Francisco as a Rising Star. Good participated in February in the Immanuel Lutheran Church Organ Scholar Competition in Evanston, Illinois, where he won the undergraduate prize. In April, he was a finalist in the National Organ Playing Competition in Fort Wayne, where he won second prize and audience choice. Trevor's former teachers include Dr. Grigory Frederick Guzasky and Dale Rogers.

Aaron Looney (right), is currently a student at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is pursuing a degree in church music with an organ emphasis under Dr. 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 music. Aaron is



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)

Saturday, March 16

Before Bach's Birthday Bash

Monday, April 1

Introduction to the Organ with Anna Lapwood and Mini Opus

Saturday, April 13

TCAGO Competition in Organ Performance

Saturday, April 20

Pipedreams Organ Scholarships Auditions

Sunday, May 12

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

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a highly active musician at St. Olaf, participating in two choral ensembles and accompanying two additional choral ensembles. Furthermore, Aaron regularly takes part in solo recitals and small ensemble performances at St. Olaf. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Aaron will continue on to graduate studies in organ performance at the Eastman School of Music, studying with David Higgs.

Aaron held a position as organist at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Sidney, Virginia, for two years where he led worship as Music Minister. Prior to his position at Salem, he volunteered as organist at his home church in Dayton, Virginia. Aaron has also been fortunate to appear as a guest musician and substitute organist throughout Virginia and various churches in Minnesota. In the fall of 2021, Aaron joined the worship team at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota, where he holds a position as Associate Organist. Aaron was awarded second prize in the AGO Regional Organ Competition in 2023, and is a frequent performer in the Twin Cities.

Dean's Column

DAVID JENKINS



Think back to your earliest encounters with the organ, the experiences that nourished your budding interest in playing the instrument. My first encounters were trying out my little Bach piano pieces on the Hammond organ at St. James on the Parkway in Minneapolis. The organist at St. James, Greg Larson, gave this ten-year-old boy the first encouragement that eventually led to a lifelong passion. The key ingredients were access to an instrument, and an adult role model who invited me to explore. And, I would add, that I lived in a household where music was loved, with parents who always encouraged my musical pursuits.

The Pipe Organ Encounter (POE), one of the AGO's most successful long-time educational outreach programs, provides the ingredients for this kind of formative introduction to the world of the pipe organ. In the summer of 2018, the TCAGO collaborated with St. Olaf College and Shattuck-St. Mary's School to hold a POE. Nineteen participants, aged 13 to 18, came from around the country to Minnesota for a five-day program. The events included individual and group instruction

in organ playing, and introductions to pipe organ construction, improvisation, and related topics. Participants experienced ecumenical worship and the role of the sacred musician, enjoyed recitals by faculty, a silent film accompaniment by John Ferguson, a trip to Northrop to explore the Æolian-Skinner organ, and more. Most of all, the POE provided participants a unique opportunity to meet and interact with peers who had similar interests.

Based on the success of the first POE—and stressing the importance of our mission to introduce young people to the organ—the TCAGO board gave approval in March for us to apply to host a POE in June of 2025. This time the program will be based entirely on the campus of St. Olaf, using their large and varied array of pipe organs for teaching, practice, and recitals. Several churches within walking distance of campus will also be available. An added plus is that the St. Olaf College Summer Music Academy will be held during the same week, providing possibilities for participation in some of the evening ensembles activities, or for other music students to attend organ recitals.

St. Olaf College professor Cathy Rodland and I will be co-directors of the POE. We will be assembling a committee of volunteers to assist with the planning, administration, fundraising, promotion, teaching, and program. Teaching faculty will be drawn from qualified members of our chapter. Our chapter is certainly well poised to hold another successful POE. The considerable interest and attendance at our education programs and events this past year have demonstrated that the field is ripe to attract participants from the Twin Cities and beyond.

For more information on the Pipe Organ Encounters, see the [AGO website](#).

A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND

No sooner had I written my column for the April newsletter, than did the new issue of *The Christian Century* arrive. In it, as always, I turned first to the opening-page editorial by Rev. Peter W. Marty. Its title "In praise of church musicians" resonates so well with my own feelings and experiences. Marty

Submission Due Date for *Pípenotes*

The due date for the **June** issue is **May 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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observes: “Gifted church musicians know how to help people sing together. They’re geniuses in helping a congregation get ‘lost in wonder, love, and praise,’ to borrow Charles Wesley’s words, without simply getting lost.”

Singing together is one of our spiritual practices that cannot be done in isolation or virtually, and it remains a powerful witness to our common faith. To all of you who teach and lead congregational song from week to week—be it chant, anthem, chorale, or praise chorus—know that yours is a ministry of God to the assembled people, and a mission from the people to the world.



When I hear or see fans in the stands at the arena or the theater cheering on their favorite hero or artist, I imagine our biblical ancestors lustily singing psalms antiphonally across the temple courtyard or from one hillside to another, or the martyrs praising God with their last breath. Heaven is best pictured with rank upon rank of angels and saints singing “Glory to God!” Where can the modern worshipper join in “cheering” for God, except as we join together in the music of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. So again, thanks and blessings to all you who help us do this. Keep the Hallelujah choruses coming!

Celebrating Aaron Looney

A Remarkable Journey at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Partnership with St. Olaf College

JEREMY HAUG

Aaron Looney’s journey began with Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota, three years ago as a sophomore at St. Olaf College. From the beginning, his passion for music, the arts, and learning were evident. For me personally, Aaron has been a lifesaver—and I have been so proud to mentor him and be part of his journey.



The Mount Calvary community has observed immense growth and engagement from Aaron. We have been blessed by his presence and stand in awe of all that he has accomplished.



We have witnessed talent blossom, confidence soar, and commitments deepen. Aaron is an inspiration and a true model of an ‘eager learner.’

As Aaron prepares for new adventures, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and praise. His music, creativity, and leadership have become part of our worship, and his presence a cherished gift. We are proud of who he has become, and we eagerly anticipate the amazing things he will do in the years to come.

Upcoming events featuring Aaron:

- **Senior Recital at St. Olaf College, Sunday, April 28, 8:15 p.m., Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield**

Aaron presents a senior organ recital at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, as part of his Bachelor of Church Music major degree requirements. Free and open to the public.

- **Aaron Looney with the Hamline Church Festival Chorus, Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m., Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul**
Aaron Looney, organist, with the Hamline Church Festival Chorus, presents a recital showcasing his artistry and skill on Hamline’s Casavant organ, featuring music by Bach and movements from Vierne’s Symphony VI. The Hamline Church Festival Chorus joins Aaron

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for Rheinberger's *Stabat Mater* in G minor and Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*. Freewill offering and open to the public.

- Organ Competition Winners Recital sponsored by TCAGO, Sunday, May 12, 3:00 p.m. (See page 1)
- Aaron Looney's Last Weekend Worship at Mount Calvary, Saturday/Sunday, May 18/19, [Mount Calvary Lutheran Church](#), 301 County Road 19, Excelsior

As we bid farewell to Aaron, we celebrate a final weekend on May 18 and 19 at Mount Calvary. On Saturday at 5:00 p.m., he will present the prelude and postlude. On Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., there will be a musical feast celebrating Aaron, filled with festive hymns, trumpets, timpani, and the Chancel Choir with orchestra will present selections from 'a new creation' by René Clausen. Join us as we celebrate Aaron—a young musician who has left an incredible mark on our hearts and souls.



Hope Renewed

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

[Ted Mann Concert Hall](#), University of Minnesota
2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis

In a program that explores our relationships with one another and with creation, *Hope Renewed* shares a message of justice and hope.

"This concert bridges generations—featuring our professional Ensemble Singers, volunteer Chorus, and teenage Singers Of This Age—and truly celebrates our 55-year commitment to bringing new music to life," says Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder, VocalEssence. "I'm thrilled that we can introduce Shanelle Gabriel to the Twin Cities community through her performance in *A Vision Unfolding*, creative writing sessions with our teens, and presentations in the community," says G. Phillip Shoultz, III, associate artistic director, VocalEssence. "Working with her is another way that we can help our community to find its collective voice and work towards a more loving existence."

Visit vocalessence.org/event/concert-hope-renewed to find tickets online.



The Friends of Music & Artistic Director Stephen Hamilton present a Celebrity Organ Concert

Basically Baroque

with
SAMUEL BACKMAN, organist



Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.
at Olivet Congregational Church
on the Dobson organ, Opus 4
1850 Iglehart Avenue, Saint Paul
Admission: pay as you can!

Suggested admission: \$20.00

Samuel Backman, Director of Sacred Music at Holy Cross Catholic Church, has been featured on *Pipedreams* and as an organ recitalist for AGO conferences and the Church Music Association of America. Samuel holds degrees from Saint Olaf College (BM), the Yale School of Music (MM), and the University of Oklahoma (DMA).

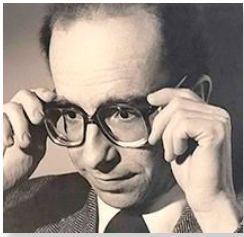
Symphonic Sounds: Music for Organ and Orchestra

A Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of *Pipedreams* featuring the music of James P. Callahan

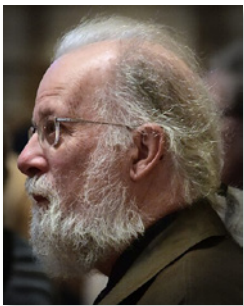
Saturday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Festival Orchestra, Matthew George, conductor; Jacob Benda and David Jenkins, organ soloists; Richard Dirlam, saxophone

The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas, [University of St. Thomas](#)
Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul



Please join us for a very special event as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of *Pipedreams* hosted by Michael Barone, and the musical life of James P. Callahan. The program will feature favorite works of Michael and Jim including Organ Concerto No. 1 and Organ Concerto No. 2 by Callahan, Francis Poulenc's *Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani*, and Edward Elgar's *Sospiri*. A highlight of the evening will be the posthumous world premiere of *Elegy for saxophone and piano* by James P. Callahan. The concert will conclude with a surprise piece of Benda's choosing. This event is free and open to the public.



A reception will follow in the Hoedeman Gallery of Sacred Art. Please invite your family, friends, and colleagues as we honor these two inspiring individuals.

Contemplative Prayer with Arnesen Mass

Sunday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

[Pilgrim Lutheran Church](#)

1935 St. Clair Avenue, Saint Paul

Pilgrim Lutheran Church will present an evening service of contemplative prayer featuring a 45-minute masterwork by

Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980), *The Holy Spirit Mass*, led by the combined choirs of Immanuel and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches and an ensemble of professional instrumentalists (strings and piano). The piece was originally commissioned and performed by the National Lutheran Choir in 2017 and is offered this day especially to honor the Festival of Pentecost, also with appreciation for Scandinavian music and heritage as many celebrate *Syttende*



Mai ("Seventeenth of May") this weekend, otherwise known as Norway's national Constitution Day.

Contact Paul Stever at SteverPaul55@aol.com for more information.

Bach Tage Events

Saturday, June 1, 4:00 p.m.

and Sunday, June 2, 4:00 p.m.

[Mount Olive Lutheran Church](#)

3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts presents two public events in association with its Seventeenth Annual *Bach Tage*, or "Bach days."

- **Recital: Saturday, June 1 at 4:00 p.m.**

Cantor and organist David Cherwien will present a recital exploring various settings of the *Vater unser* tune, Martin Luther's paraphrase of The Lord's Prayer.

- **Evening Prayer: Sunday, June 2 at 4:00 p.m.**

The *Bach Tage* participants will sing two cantatas with soloists and orchestra, directed by Kathy Romey, followed by a reception in the Chapel Lounge.

Every year during a two-day convocation, singers (and listeners) from anywhere and of any age gather to explore, rehearse, hear, and learn about the music of Lutheranism's




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greatest composer, Johann Sebastian Bach. This year, participants will prepare Bach's Cantata BWV 101, *Nimm von uns, Herr, der treuer Gott*, built on the hymn tune *Vater unser* ("Our Father"), and SWV 411, *Vater unser, der du bist im Himmela*, a setting of the Lord's Prayer by Heinrich Schütz, both of which will be incorporated into the service of Evening Prayer.

Kathy Romey returns to conduct *Bach Tage* for a seventeenth year in 2024. Kathy is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Minnesota and artistic director of the Minnesota Chorale, the principal chorus of the Minnesota Orchestra. She has been a chorus master to the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart. The musicians of the *Bach Tage* orchestra are all specialists in the performance of baroque music and perform on period instruments or replicas of them. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information on this event and on the Music and Fine Arts program, please contact Dr. Cherwien online at mountolivechurch.org or at the church office at 612-827-5919.

MIXTURES

Members are invited to send in a photo and/or anecdotes of 200 words or less about 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

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

MAY

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. — admission charged

Hope Renewed: VocalEssence; see page 4

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. — admission charged

Concert: Horacio Lavandera, pianist

Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

11 Fourth Avenue SW, Rochester

Saturday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Chapel Arts Series: Celebrating *Pipedreams'* 40th Anniversary and the musical life of James P. Callahan; see page 5

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.

Music and Arts Series: Aaron Looney, organist; Hamline Church Festival Chorus

Hamline United Methodist Church

1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

Tuesday, May 7, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Jeffrey Patry, organist

Church of Saint Louis, King of France

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

ElectroAcoustic Organ Concert: Dean Billmeyer, Nils Halker, Emily Roth, and Brenda Sevcik, organists; U of M composition students

Carlson Family Stage, Northrop

University of Minnesota

84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Bach's Ascension Day Cantata: Stacie Lightner, conductor

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

100 Oxford Street North, Saint Paul

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.

Basically Baroque: Samuel Backman, organist; see ad, page 4

Saturday, May 11, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Henry Dangerfield, youth organist

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Saturday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. — admission charged

Concert with choir & orchestra: Raymond Johnston, director

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

TCAGO Event: Sunday, May 12, 3:00 p.m.

AGO/Quimby RCYO Winners' Recital: Trevor Good and


Aaron Looney, organists; see page 1

Tuesday, May 14, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Kathrine Handford, organist

Church of Saint Louis, King of France

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul



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Wednesday, May 15, 12:30 p.m.

Noontime Series: Joel Anderson, organist

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Tuesday, May 21, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Larry Martin, organist

Church of Saint Louis, King of France

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Sunday, June 9, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Horst Buchholz, organist

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Friday, June 14, 8:00 a.m.–Saturday, June 15, 10:30 a.m.

HymnStock 2024 (yes, lasting all night!): A festival celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the *Achtliederbuch*, the first Lutheran hymnal, with organists accompanying every hymn in the Lutheran Book of Worship; a benefit to support the organ project; Saturday celebration breakfast

St. John's Lutheran Church

625 12th Avenue, Howard Lake

Wednesday, June 19, noon

Hendrickson 30th Anniversary Series: Noah Carlson, organist

Central Lutheran Church

259 West Wabasha Street, Winona

Tuesday, June 18, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Samuel Holmberg, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, June 25, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Samuel Backman, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, July 9, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Brian DeYoung, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, July 16, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Daniel Lewis, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Wednesday, July 17, noon

Hendrickson 30th Anniversary Series: Sue Walby, organist

Central Lutheran Church

259 West Wabasha Street, Winona

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

Concert: Leo Abbott, organist

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Tuesday, July 23, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Nathan Elsbernd, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, July 30, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Sebastian Modarelli, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

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

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Lee Afdahl, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, August 13, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Emily Roth, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Tuesday, August 20, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Alexander Meszler, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

Wednesday, August 21, noon

Hendrickson 30th Anniversary Series: Daniel Lewis, organist

Central Lutheran Church

259 West Wabasha Street, Winona

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

Concert: Andrew McDonald, organist

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Tuesday, August 27, 12:15 p.m.

Downtown Organ Recital Series: Aaron David Miller, organist

Trinity Lutheran Church

222 Sixth Avenue SW, Rochester

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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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