

Fall Organ Crawl

Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Starting at Benson Great Hall, Bethel University

TCAGO is pleased to announce the Fall Organ Crawl in the North Metro. Make your plans now to join us for a day of organ crawling! Attend all four programs or just a few. The schedule allows for travel time between venues.

If there are questions, contact [Jeremy Haug](#) or call 612-578-8058.

8:30 a.m.

Check in/hospitality

[Bethel University/Benson Great Hall](#)

3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

[Blackinton \(III\), 67 ranks \(2003\)](#)

Demonstration by Stephen Self

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

[Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church](#)

3920 Victoria Street N, Shoreview

[Fisk \(II\), 26 rank \(2014\)](#)

Demonstration by Joseph Trucano

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

[St. John the Baptist Catholic Church](#)

835 Second Avenue NW, New Brighton

[Hendrickson/Rodgers \(II\), 108 ranks/digital](#)

Demonstration by Jay Hunstiger

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

[Christ the King Lutheran Church](#)

1900 Seventh Street NW, New Brighton

[Holtkamp \(III\), 40 ranks \(1986\)](#)

Demonstration by Kathy Borgen



Pipemotes
American Guild of Organists - Twin Cities Chapter
www.tcago.org

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Dean's Column

Paul Westermeyer

State of the TCGO

As I indicated at the meeting after the Vespers Service, installation of officers, and dinner on September 25, the state of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is fine. The Chapter has characteristically



elected responsible officers who work together for the good of the whole as they promised at the installation. The committees and individuals around them do equally good, hard, and collegial work. This was evidenced again at the fine Opening Event, which took considerable shared planning, coordinating, and carrying out by many people in and out of the Guild.

Our finances are in good shape, thanks to the care our treasurer David Geslin takes with them, and the stewardly oversight of the Board. This Chapter has consistently managed its resources well, investing wisely and spending money on worthy projects that benefit the organ community to which we are committed.

I mentioned one of these projects in this column last month. It is highlighted on the website, and deserves some comments here. It's the video, *A Guide to Organ Committees*, the trailer of which can be seen on the website. This video tells the story of the Glatter-Götz Rosales organ at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul and will be shown there on Friday,

November 4, at 7:00 p.m. It has been in the making for a decade or so and illustrates the ongoing commitments and work of this Chapter across the tenure of various Boards. In about one-half hour it summarizes the organ's installation at Augustana. That is a large installation.

The *Guide* will be helpful, however, to all organ committees, whether they are working on large or small organs, because it raises the questions any such committee has to consider – like acoustics; the physical characteristics of the building beyond acoustical ones; and the reasons for an organ in a church in relation to the congregation as a whole, the choir, the organ's history and repertoire, and the surrounding community. (Communities need to be remembered in this process. My brother-in-law was a pastor who made the case for an organ to the whole community and received substantial communal support not only in, but outside the church he was serving.)

Projects like this one are indicative of the Board's work on behalf of the Guild and the surrounding world it serves. The Board also handles a lot of smaller matters, of course. These do not receive the publicity a project like the video receives, but keep things running smoothly and seek to respond to your concerns as they arise.

It is my pleasure to work with the Board, its committees, and all of you. That includes those (most!) of you whose work normally goes unheralded, like Merritt Nequette who edits *Pipenotes*, and our registrar, Jane Nienaber. On my own behalf, and on behalf of and to the whole Guild, thank you.

Have a good year.

New Members of the Chapter

Thomas Hermans is an IBEW Electrician currently working for Parsons Electric at Xcel Energy's Sherburne County Power Generation Station. Previous experience includes building the public safety radio infrastructure at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis and the cell phone network in the stadium. Tom has been a professional driver operating semis and big trucks, driving parade floats for the Aquatennial and Holidazzle, and managing bus drivers for the Minnesota State Fair. In addition, he works as an audio engineer for a small handful of clients in the Twin Cities. Currently, he is in training to join the Minneapolis Police Department as a Reserve Officer, and

is taking classes on medium-voltage cable splicing, leadership and healthcare-facility wiring at the IBEW Local Union 292 Training Center.

He began organ study in 2006 with Marilyn Lueth after a lifelong fascination with the pipe organ. He continued in 2009 at Bemidji State University with Margaret Maxwell while studying Criminal Justice. When time permits, Tom practices at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights.

Hi! My name is **Dietrich Jessen** and I currently serve on the National Staff of Lutheran Music Program, home of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival. I grew up in Lake Charles, LA, and moved

away to college in 2011 to study at Luther College in Decorah, IA. I studied Business and Finance.

Since I was only three years young, I have had an undying love for the keyboard. While my primary studies were in classical piano from age three until now, I developed a love for the organ and became a young church organist at the age of ten! I have studied organ with Marlene Mullenix and Catherine Rodland.

During my time at Luther, I was a member of the Luther College Nordic Choir under the direction of Allen Hightower, and was an accompanist for many vocal and instrumental students. I also served as Homecoming Co-Chair, Student Activities Council Vice-President, Student Senate Treasurer, and had the privilege to serve on the Luther College Board of Regents. I am very happy to be a member of the TCAGO and look forward to meeting many of you. Thank you for such a gracious welcome.

Mark Paisar began his organ studies with Frank Rippl in 2006. The following year, he started undergraduate studies at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he studied organ with Richard Hoskins. Mark continued his studies at the graduate level at the University of Kansas. He received his MM degree in church music with both organ performance and choral conducting concentrations. He is currently finishing his doctoral studies at the University of Kansas, where he studied with James Higdon and Michael Bauer.

Mark's performance engagements range from his home state of Wisconsin to Missouri and Kansas. His more recent performances include the Bachathon at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, a dedicatory recital where he performed alongside fellow organists James Higdon and Jan Kraybill at Unity Temple in Kansas City, and a performance on *Pipedreams* that was hosted at the Bales Organ Recital Hall in the spring of 2013.

Mark currently serves as the Associate Director of Music at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

TCAGO Student Competition

Saturday, March 25

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

The organ is a Schlicker III/55 (1966/2008). Contact [Mary Newton](#), event coordinator, for more details.

[Mount Olive Lutheran Church](#)

3045 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis

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Triple Joy: Hear the JOY! Live the JOY! Spread the JOY!

Carolyn Diamond in Recital

Saturday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

This is a program filled with glorious music that will fill up your hearts and souls!

From Bach to Mendelssohn, Howells to Vierne, and other wonderful composers and arrangers, this eclectic music will feature the magnificent Casavant organ (one of the largest in the upper midwest) in ways that will twinkle, whisper, rumble and roar through all 108 ranks of pipes!

Admission is free.

A champagne reception will follow at the church.

[Central Lutheran Church](#)

333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis



STEPHEN HAMILTON Concert Organist

An excellent performance of the Bach "Pascaglia and Fugue in C Minor" (was) given by Stephen Hamilton who obviously knew the (Rieger) organ's sonorous capabilities and brought them powerfully to bear in a rousing account. He took serious risks with accents of duration at one point, lingering on strong beats, but succeeded in enhancing the effect of looming culmination that lies at the heart of this work. —The New York Times

www.stephenjonhamilton.com

952-934-0331

Chartres Competition Winner Dexter Kennedy

Sunday, October 9, 3:00 p.m.
University of St. Thomas Chapel, St. Paul

Concert organist and competition winner Dexter Kennedy will present a concert in the University of St. Thomas Organ Artist series. Mr. Kennedy was the winner of the *Grand Prix d'Interprétation* at the 24th *Concours International d'Orgue de Chartres*.

Dexter Kennedy holds the Artist Diploma from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he was a pupil of James David Christie. He holds an MM from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, where he was a recipient of the Robert Baker Award, as well as the Mary Baker Prize for Excellence in Organ Accompaniment.



In addition to concertizing, Dexter Kennedy is the Instructor of Organ and Harpsichord at the College of Wooster. A devoted church musician, he is the Assistant Organist of Christ Church Grosse Pointe (Michigan) where he serves as the principal organist for all choral services and concerts, and directs the training of the novice boy and girl choristers.

The concert will include works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Ritter, Pierné, Alain, and Litaize. The concert is free, and a reception will follow.

[University of St. Thomas Chapel](#)
Cleveland and Laurel Aves., St Paul
651-962-5850

50th Anniversary Organ Recital

Friday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.
Fairmount Ave. United Methodist Church, St. Paul

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Wicks pipe organ, a program of popular favorites will be performed by Steve Rosenberg, Fairmount's music director/organist since 1971. Featured works by Bach, Boëllmann, Rheinberger, Vierne, Saint-Saëns, Thalben-Ball, and Lefébure-Wély will be included. A reception will follow the program.

[Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church](#)
1523 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul

VocalEssence Community Sing

Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m.
Creative Arts Secondary School, Saint Paul

For the first Community Sing of its 48th season, VocalEssence is extending a one-of-a-kind invitation: to join in song with two of choral music's most distinctive and indelible talents, Alice Parker and Ysaye Barnwell.

These two Queens of Choral Music will lead an unforgettable afternoon of fellowship drawing on their rich, lifelong experiences as dynamic leaders of the choral tradition – and they welcome the participation of everyone, from first-timers to seasoned vocal pros to enjoy the positive benefits of group singing.

The event is open to all – no prior singing experience is required. Details and ticket information at vocalessence.org

Auditorium, [Creative Arts Secondary School](#)
65 Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul

The Seasons of Life with *The Voyage*

Sunday, October 16, 4:00 p.m.
Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

The Voyage will be a concert combining two stirringly creative and soul-warming works, *The Voyage* and *Quilt Songs*. The common thread that ties *The Voyage*

and *Quilt Songs* together is salvation through community – how the kindness of others provides a way out of loneliness. Using singing as a compass, people can find the way from aching solitude to comfort and security. It's a message at the very heart of the VocalEssence mission – to build strong communities through song.

The concert's namesake piece, *The Voyage*, comes to Minneapolis from British choral music star Bob Chilcott. *The Voyage*, a collaboration with British poet Charles Bennett, was a special commission by Age UK Oxfordshire, created and based on research that singing decreases the effects of loneliness on the aging population. The performance aims to bring people of all ages together to defeat those feelings of isolation. *The Voyage* will be brought to life with voices from every age in human development lending their own spirit and energy. The voices of the VocalEssence Chorus will be joined by younger performers from the Minneapolis Youth Chorus and from senior performers from the Voices of Experience.

Quilt Songs draws texture and color from different artistic disciplines, unifying them in a single dazzling composition. Besides the folk art of contemporary local quilter Kay McCarthy, *Quilt Songs* also features poetry and selections from the music of five prominent female composers: Carol Barnett, Ysaye Barnwell, Gabriela Frank, Libby Larsen and Alice Parker.

A pre-concert conversation with conductor Nick Nash and quilter Kay McCarthy, hosted by Randall Davidson, will begin at 3:00 p.m.

For more information about this concert and to purchase tickets, please call 612-371-5656 or visit vocalessence.org.

[Central Lutheran Church](#)

333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis



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612-868-7827
david@davidgcpa.com

Tricks and Treats with the Mighty Organ

Sunday, October 30, 6:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

The twelfth annual *Tricks and Treats with the Mighty Organ* concert will be presented by resident organist Bill Chouinard on the 108-rank Casavant/Schantz pipe organ in the Sanctuary. The performance, replete with special lighting and video effects, is designed with young listeners in mind, and children are invited to come in costume and join in the parade around the room.

Refreshments and treats for kids of all ages will be served after the program, and an offering will be received. Come early for Papa Murphy's pizza sold by the slice in the Youth and Sports Center from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

[St. Andrew's Lutheran Church](#)

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VocalEssence

Welcome Christmas concerts

The gentle energy of Southwestern rhythms infuses classic carols with exotic flavor during this year's audience-favorite concert series. This holiday, *Welcome Christmas* will present a journey to pueblos, penderosas, and piñon, traveling under the power of the VocalEssence Chorus and Ensemble Singers. This year, Conrad Susa's *Carols and Lullabies* lets us journey to the American Southwest, where Spanish and Mexican influences bring the lively tones of the harp, marimba and guitar to the story of Christ's birth.

Winners of this year's Welcome Christmas Carol Contest will be celebrated at the concert. The contest is a holiday tradition for VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum, who together challenge composers of all ages to write a modern-day carol for cho-

rus and an instrument – this year, vibraphone – and offer two winners each a prize of \$1,000.

The 2016 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest winners are Sean Sweeden, a teacher, musician, and DMA candidate in percussion performance at the University of Kansas City-Missouri Conservatory of Music and Dance; and the Twin Cities-area producer, recording artist, and performer Lee Blaske.

Sweeden's composition, *Adam Lay Ybounden*, has an old English carol about Adam and Eve as its inspiration. For Blaske's composition, William Blake's poem *A Cradle Song* served as a jumping-off point.

For further information on dates, venues, and tickets, visit vocalessence.org or call 612-371-5656.

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The Felgemaker Organ in Duluth

J. Michael Barone

Many years ago, when I was newly transplanted to Minnesota, through a recording made by audio-guru Russell Borud and his pal, Richard Proulx, I 'discovered' a remarkable pipe organ in Duluth, the 1898 Felgemaker, Opus 664 (II+P/26r) in the former Roman Catholic Cathedral, now repurposed as the Sacred Heart Music Center. This would have been the spring of 1969.



At that point, interest in and care-full awareness of historic American instruments was not widespread, yet the sound of this instrument – vibrant, incisive, colorful, and elegantly enhanced by the acoustics of the space – captured my imagination.

It took several years before I made my first trip up to Duluth's West Fourth Street for a one-on-one experience of the Felgemaker in its stately brick home, but my expectations were not disappointed. I still marvel how such an instrument could be selected unceremoniously from a catalog, built in Erie, Pennsylvania, and shipped to and installed in a church in faraway Duluth, Minnesota, and without benefit of months of on-site regulation, be left there as a testament to the exquisite taste and superb craftsmanship of its makers. They got it right!

Every rank has character and utility, *every* stop works well with any other stop, ensembles are cohesive and build to a dramatic climax, capped by a particularly pungent Trumpet. I recorded Jesse Eschbach on this instrument in Widor's *Symphonie Gothique*, in which the 8' Melodia proved as expressive as any Cavallé-Coll *flute harmonique*, and the dramatic *tutti* sounded totally convincing even without a 16-foot pedal reed. Perhaps it is not surprising that this landmark church on the hillside high above Duluth's downtown was preserved because of the compelling and captivating voice of this remarkable and unique instrument, the largest surviving 19th century pipe organ indigenous to Minnesota.

Since it is no longer required as accompaniment to a daily liturgy, the Felgemaker usually sits silent, smiling down from its balcony perch as the Sacred Heart Music Center fulfills its function as a community gathering space. A look at the Center's web calendar reveals an eclectic schedule of performing artists, such as the Galactic Cowboy Orchestra, singers Rachel Kilgour and Mason Jennings, the Rose Ensemble, and the Big Top's Blues Canvas Orchestra.

But since pipe organs should be heard and not just seen, a group of local artists have initiated a new, ongoing series of *Second Saturday Organ Concerts* (at 2:00 p.m.), as much to challenge themselves with the learning of new repertoire as to keep tabs on the condition of their prized organic antique and share it with the community.

Hats off to the *Friends of the Felgemaker* for keeping this instrument of historic significance in the public consciousness and reminding us that organs and organ music provide for never-ending fascination.

Find more information at <http://sacredheartmusic.org/> and <http://www.organsociety.org/2017/>.



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A Reflection from Balboa Park, San Diego

Aaron David Miller

When I play concerts in San Diego, my body can't decide whether I'm working or on vacation. It is the only trip where my organ shoes get packed alongside sunscreen and my map to Torrey Pines Beach.

The last weekend of August, I again scooted my rental up the big hill and over the Laurel Street Bridge to that exotic nook of San Diego known as Balboa Park. The buildings in Balboa are preserved exactly as they were unveiled for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. The buildings are so richly ornamented the tourists can't figure out why their iPhones don't capture the spectacle.

In the middle of Balboa Park sits an amazing gift to the city of San Diego, the Spreckels Pipe Organ – the largest outdoor pipe organ in the world. The



organ was a gift from John D. Spreckels, owner of the San Diego Electric Railway Company. Since the organ's dedication, the city has employed a civic organist to champion the instrument in weekend concerts and festivals.

For the past fifteen years, that civic organist has been my graduate school chum, Carol Williams. Together we weathered the eccentric genius and bluster known as McNeil Robinson – a teacher we both herald with abundant footnotes.

On August 29, Carol and I presented a double organ concert with the Spreckels organ to a crowd of just over 2100, a slightly smaller audience than usual if you can believe it. The audience was peppered with many of Carol's friends including organ builders Manuel Rosales and Lyle Blackington. I even discovered a few California transplants from my own congregation of House of Hope in St. Paul.



All of us friends were there to support Carol as she announced her departure as Civic Organist of San Diego. She was the first woman to hold that post. Over the years her programming at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion included everything from Tournemire to David Bowie to Nivers to Cole Porter. She created thousands of organ enthusiasts – not bad for a Brit living in San Diego.

I wish Carol well. I wish the Spreckels Organ Society well. The world needs more places like this to make organ music. It is a place where our instrument intrigues people in the most common of places – like a park in the city.



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Calendar of Events

October

Saturday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Hear the JOY! Live the JOY! Spread the JOY!

Carolyn Diamond in Recital

Central Lutheran Church

333 South Twelfth Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, October 2, 3:00 p.m.

Bach and Sons Organ Recital

Jeannine Jordan, organist

Zion Lutheran Church

709 Sixth Street, Wausau, Wisconsin

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

University of St. Thomas Organ Artist Series

Chartres Competition Winner Dexter Kennedy

University of St. Thomas Chapel

Cleveland & Laurel Avenues, St. Paul

Friday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

50th Anniversary Organ Recital

Steve Rosenberg, organist

Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church

1523 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul

Saturday, October 15, 2:00 p.m.

VocalEssence Community Sing

Auditorium, Creative Arts Secondary School

65 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul

TCAGO Event

Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fall Organ Crawl

Beginning at Benson Great Hall

Bethel University

3900 Bethel Drive, St. Paul

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

The Seasons of Life: *The Voyage* and *Quilt Songs*

VocalEssence; Minneapolis Youth Chorus;

and Voices of Experience

Central Lutheran Church

333 South Twelfth Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, October 30, 6:00 p.m.

Tricks and Treats with the Mighty Organ

Bill Chouinard, organist

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi



November

TCAGO Event

Friday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.

Awakening the Dream: A Guide for Organ Committees

Augustana Lutheran Church

1400 S. Robert Street, West St. Paul

TCAGO Events

Friday, Saturday, November 11 & 12, 8:00 p.m.

Durufle Requiem

Tom Trenny, guest organist

Singers In Accord, Kathy Romey, director

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 S. Eighth Street, Minneapolis

TCAGO Event

Saturday, November 12, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Masterclass and Improvisation Workshop

Tom Trenny, presenter

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 S. Eighth Street, Minneapolis

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Website Administrators: [David Engen](#) (m) 612-801-8662,
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Facebook - facebook.com/twincitiesAGO

Pipenotes

is the official publication of the Twin Cities Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and is published nine times a year, September through June. December and January are combined.

Deadline date

Information for Pipenotes should be received no later than the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

Materials may be sent to [Merritt Nequette](#), editor.

Letters to the Editor

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Mail letters to [Merritt Nequette](#).

Pipedreams

For a listing of organ events statewide, access the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*. For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, please send information to [Michael Barone](#), or to *Pipedreams* Calendar, 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

MPR

Classical Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar.

On the top bar of the general MPR web page, click on "Events," then "Events Calendar," then "Classical Music." However, if you find yourself on the Classical MPR main page, click on "More," then "Events," then "Classical Music."

In either case, once on the page that lists Classical Music Events, if you wish to add your own upcoming activity, under the headline for "Calendar Events Home" at the top of the page you should find an additional prompt for "Submit Event." Fill in all appropriate boxes (and check to see if your venue is already logged into the system, which might save you some time).

Note that this MPR Calendar information will reach a different audience than that submitted to Barone for posting on the TCAGO/*Pipedreams* calendar pages. Both are free, the one a self-service feature and a separate vehicle by which you can let people (including the Classical MPR program hosts) know about your classical music concerts.

By all means, continue to send information directly to Michael Barone too!!

We also encourage you to regularly request organ selections on the "Friday Favorites" show with Steven Staruch. Encourage and promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming!