

## Bach and Reger Bash

**Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**St. Paul Summit Avenue Area**

**A** *Before Bach's Birthday Bash* will celebrate the 331st birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach (b. 3/21/1685) and also commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death in 1916 of Max Reger, one of the foremost post-Bach contrapuntal masters. And March 19 is also the anniversary date of Reger's birth in 1873.

Michael Barone, *Pipedreams* MPR host, is looking for a few more volunteers to play select works by Bach (and some Reger), including quiet, shorter pieces. As in the past, there will be multiple hour-long free concerts at various venues, this year at some of our tried-and-true venues along Summit Avenue.

9:00 a.m. **St. Paul Seminary St. Mary's Chapel**  
 2260 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

<https://www.stthomas.edu/spssod/chapel/>

10:30 am. **University of St. Thomas Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas**  
 Cleveland and Laurel Aves., St Paul

<http://www.stthomas.edu/music/organs/>

1:00 p.m. **St. Clement's Episcopal Church**  
 901 Portland Ave., St. Paul

<http://www.stcstp.org>

2:30 p.m. **Unity Unitarian Church**  
 733 Portland Ave., St. Paul

<http://www.unityunitarian.org>

4:00 p.m. **House of Hope Presbyterian Church**  
 797 Summit Avenue, St Paul

<http://www.hohchurch.org>



Thanks for your participation! I admit that my selection process will be very subjective, and though I hope to include everyone who responds, there are inevitable limits.

Michael Barone, program overseer, 651-290-1539



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**Pipedreams**  
 American Guild of Organists – Twin Cities Chapter  
[www.tcago.org](http://www.tcago.org)



## Dean's Column

Paul Westermeyer

### *Widor and Further Thoughts*

The Widor festival we just experienced, as many of you know, was quite well-planned and executed. Thanks are due to the Sub-Dean David Jenkins, the Program Committee he chairs, and all those who participated in anything connected with it who made it what it was. Thanks is the first thing I want to say here, on my behalf and on behalf of the TCAGO and the others who benefited from it and spoke appreciatively of it.



Beyond that thanks, the nature of the program itself elicits some further thoughts. The program, with the help of John Near's expertise, was essentially about the music Widor wrote that was not for the organ or not only for the organ. Organ music was included, but we were introduced to music which many of us had little or no idea about. Some of us knew some of it vaguely, some of us did not know it existed at all, and all of us learned about Widor himself, his music, and the music of the period. If I heard the conversations rightly, opinions vary about the quality of Widor's whole *oeuvre*. Or, more accurately, there are a variety of opinions about various pieces, not unlike that variety for pieces of other composers. How we judge the quality and what should or should not be in the repertoire is not what I want to emphasize, though that's an important conversation. What seems most valuable is what we learned about Widor's music that helps us with what we may play from it and then leads us a bit further. The second of these points is the focus here.

I don't know if there are composers of organ music who wrote for other instruments an amount equivalent to Widor's which would surprise us. However, the breadth of what organists seem propelled to seek out, know about, and work at is surprising. I do not mean to say that this breadth is absent from other musicians. It is not. But it seems harder to remove from organists and does not only refer to Bach, Widor, or other musicians from the past. Organists among us have made me realize this, both little-known and well-known ones.

I have had some wonderful and knowledgeable violin, piano, and voice teachers. But what has always struck me is that organ teachers who were equally able teachers of technique have been characterized by an added dimension of breadth. I suppose this may be just my experience, but I doubt it. It also seems to characterize organists who as classroom teachers know a lot about many topics. Organists seem constantly driven to historical and contemporaneous musical excursions beyond organ music, they are forever running together various likely and unlikely themes from various sources in polyphonic or homophonic juxtapositions where one theme may be skillfully hidden, and they often know about the whole musical waterfront.

Here is where this leads. A large body of not so visible music and thought stands behind all music and may especially characterize organ music. This is probably no different today from what it has been in the past, but its potential for tension is heightened when the popular is valued at the expense of all the rest. What organists contribute to our common life does not only live at a popular level. What organists contribute gives us a depth and breadth that goes beyond the popular and beyond organ music itself. It stimulates conversations, lectures, and educational ventures about other music and other topics near and beyond the organ.

Two examples were evident at our mid-winter January tune-up. Kim Kasling provided a historical overview of organs in Central Minnesota which were largely influenced by the work of the Benedictines, but his comments alluded to a historical and cultural breadth behind those organs. Anita Smisek worked out from Czech and Czech/American organ music to a comprehensive spectrum of music and a historical range well beyond the organ.

The "bottom line" is this. The depth of what lies behind the "Widor *Toccata*" is a symbol for the breadth that lies behind what organists do. This is not absent from other musicians, to be sure, but it seems harder to remove from organists. Be thankful and of good cheer. The human race not only needs, but desires – sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, always for the long haul – the breadth of such support.

## 2016 Call for Scores – A Reminder

TCAGO has announced a competition for an unpublished, meditative work for solo pipe organ.

This article was originally published in *Pipenotes* in the November issue. All the necessary information about eligibility and submissions may be found on the tcago website under “Events.”

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## Alice Parker Leads our Choirs

**Saturday, March 5, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis**

Alice Parker – composer, conductor and teacher – has made choral and vocal music her life’s work. Her



arrangements with Robert Shaw of folk-songs, hymns and spirituals are part of the repertoire for choruses all around the world. She has

been commissioned by choruses and orchestras across this country, made thirteen recordings and, at age 90, continues to compose and conduct.

Join us at Plymouth Church to experience her amazing presence as she conducts the combined choirs of five churches: The Basilica of Saint Mary, Central Lutheran Church, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church

Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave. (at Franklin), Minneapolis  
[www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org)

## Brahms’ Requiem Sing

**Sunday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.**  
**St. Olaf Catholic Church, Minneapolis**

Join the Minnesota Chorale, under the direction of Kathy Saltzman Romey, organist Lynn Trapp, and professional soloists in singing Johannes Brahms’ *A German Requiem*.

Brahms composed the *Requiem*, his largest choral work, between 1865 and 1868 as a work of consolation for those left behind. In this performance, the 2001 Lively-Fulcher pipe organ at St. Olaf will be the entire orchestra.

Bring your own score or borrow one at the event. Come to sing-a-long or just come to listen.

Freewill offering will be taken. Reception follows. Free parking in the Energy Center Ramp at 9th Street and 3rd Avenue.

St. Olaf Catholic Church  
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis  
<http://saintolaf.org/>

## STEPHEN HAMILTON Concert Organist

*An excellent performance of the Bach “Passacaglia 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 teeming culmination that lies at the heart of this work. —The New York Times*

[www.stephenjonhamilton.com](http://www.stephenjonhamilton.com)  
952-934-0331

## Music with a Mission: Chamber Music by Candlelight

**Sunday, March 13, 4:00 p.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater**

You are invited to attend the second *Music With a Mission Concert: Chamber Music by Candlelight* at First Presbyterian Church. The program features beautiful music written for two violins, cello, flute, organ, and piano.

The sanctuary will be transformed by candlelight and music will range from exciting contemporary works by Craig Phillips to the soulful music of Piazzolla, a transcription of Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F*, and church sonatas by Mozart.

The premiere of a beloved hymn arranged for the chamber musicians and congregation will conclude the concert.

A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Northside Women's Space founded by Kwaanza Community Church in Minneapolis.

This concert by women and for women will be performed by First Presbyterian members Sue Boeve (flute), Joan Molloy and Elizabeth York (violins); frequent guest musician at First Presbyterian, Solvay Peterson (cello); and First Presbyterian organist, Laura Edman (organ and piano).

First Presbyterian Church  
6201 Osgood Avenue North, Stillwater  
<http://www.fpc-stillwater.org>



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### Upcoming Organ Concerts

A number of events are listed here as "alerts." A more complete article will be published in the appropriate future issue of *Pipenotes*.

#### Clive Driskill-Smith Recital - April 3

University of St. Thomas  
Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Paul

#### Ken Cowan Masterclass April 9; Concert April 10

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

#### Kalle Toivio Recital - April 17

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

#### Stephen Hamilton Concert - May 8

Elim Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale




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### VocalEssence Announces 48th Season

Community Sing with Alice Parker  
& Ysaÿe Barnwell, October 15  
Bob Chilcott's *The Voyage*, and *Quilt Songs* - music of  
five prominent women composers - October 16  
*Welcome Christmas*, December 3, 9, 10, 11  
*Star of Wonder*, 45-minute family holiday concert -  
December 10  
Community Sing with Melanie DeMore, January 13,  
2017  
*WITNESS: Underground Railroad*, February 19  
Stephen Hough *Miracle Mass*, April 22  
*¡Cantaré!* Community Concerts 2017, May 2



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612-868-7827  
[david@davidgcpa.com](mailto:david@davidgcpa.com)

### Wilma Jensen Recital

**Friday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.**

**West End United Methodist Church, Nashville TN**

The American Guild of Organists has selected internationally-acclaimed organist, church musician, and teacher Wilma Jensen as the honoree for the 2016 AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award Recital and Gala Benefit Reception. Complete information can be found online at [www.agohq.org/2016-gala](http://www.agohq.org/2016-gala).

The celebration will begin at 7:00 p.m. The honoree will perform a free recital featuring works by Vierne, Philip James, Franck, Brahms, Schumann, and Tournemire. Dr. Jensen will be joined by Stephen Seifert in a performance of Conni Ellisor's *Blackberry Winter*, a concerto for dulcimer and string orchestra, transcribed for organ by the honoree for this occasion. The recital will be followed by a Gala Benefit Reception (advance tickets required) at the Vanderbilt University Club of Nashville.

West End United Methodist Church  
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

## Calendar of Events

### March

- Saturday, March 5, 4:00 p.m.  
Alice Parker Leads our Choirs  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis
- Sunday, March 6, 4:00 p.m.  
Anniversary Concert  
Geoff Olson, organist  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
900 Summit Avenue, St. Paul
- Sunday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.  
Brahms' *Requiem* Sing  
Minnesota Choral  
Kathy Saltzman Romey, dir.  
Lynn Trapp, organist  
St. Olaf Catholic Church  
215 South Eighth St., Minneapolis
- Sunday, March 13, 4:00 p.m.  
*Music with a Mission:*  
*Chamber Music by Candlelight*  
First Presbyterian Church  
6201 Osgood Ave. North, Stillwater
- TCAGO Program Event**  
Saturday, March 19, time 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Bach and Reger Bash  
St. Mary's Chapel, St. Paul Seminary  
University of St. Thomas Chapel  
St. Clement's Episcopal Church  
Unity Unitarian Church  
House of Hope Presbyterian Church
- Saturday, March 19, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 20, 4:00 p.m.  
*Four Saints in Three Acts*  
VocalEssence  
Goodale Theater  
The Cowles Center  
528 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

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### April

- Sunday, April 3, 3:00 p.m.  
Clive Driskill-Smith Concert  
University of St. Thomas Chapel  
Cleveland and Laurel Aves., St Paul
- TCAGO Program Event**  
Saturday, April 9, 9:30 a.m. – noon  
Masterclass with Ken Cowan  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
4100 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis
- TCAGO Program Event**  
Sunday, April 10, 4:00 p.m.  
Organ concert  
Ken Cowan, organist  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
4100 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis
- TCAGO Program Event**  
Saturday, April 16, time tba  
TCAGO Competition for Young Organists  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
4100 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis
- Sunday, April 17, 4:00 p.m.  
Kalle Toivio Recital  
Central Lutheran Church  
333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis
- Tuesday, April 26, 8:00 p.m.  
*Great Anthems of the Church*  
Stephen Hamilton, organist  
First Lutheran Church  
100 Church Street, Marshall, MN

	
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**May**

Sunday, May 1

Deadline for Composition  
Competition Submissions

TCAGO Program Event

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

Members' Organ Recital – music of Max Reger  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Sunday, May 8, 3:00 p.m.

Stephen Hamilton Concert  
Elim Lutheran Church  
3978 West Broadway, Robbinsdale

Tuesday, May 10, 12:30 p.m.

Noontime Organ Series  
Stephen Hamilton, organist  
Church of Saint Louis, King of France  
506 Cedar Street, St. Paul



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**June**

Monday, June 13 – Friday June 17

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## 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!