



**The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2019-2020**

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THE CIPHER

October 2019

From Our Dean

Hello Everyone!

This month we are collaborating with Mayflower Congregational Church in their “Mondays at Mayflower” series. Wolfgang Rubsam will present a colorful concert that will please all listeners in attendance. The chapter is taking part in hosting a reception following the concert and we welcome all to attend and connect with everyone.

Because of the reception, we will not be having a dinner this month. So we encourage your attendance to hear Wolfgang and join us in the reception.

November brings us to some of the fruits of the 2019 Convention with the Quimby Regional Competition winner. Noah Klein won our region’s competition and will present a recital for our November program.

Looking into the future, March 2020, the board is planning on a young organist recital. We are encouraging all young organists (AGOYO) to participate. If you, or your students, would like to participate, please contact me via email (kevin.soodsma@gmail.com) and we will be delighted to have you!

Kevin Soodsma, Dean



Monthly programs for 2019 – 2020

Here is the lineup of AGO meetings for this season, 2019-2020. Our meetings take place at various venues throughout the area and are typically the third Monday evening of the month although there are certainly exceptions. We generally begin with a punch bowl and social time at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The cost for dinner is \$15 and to encourage attendance by younger members the board has underwritten the cost of meals for all AGO members and guests under the age of 30. The cost of these meals will come from a dedicated fund that has been recently established for this purpose.

The program portion of the meeting follows at 8:00 p.m. and all programs are open to the public. On occasion free-will offerings will be accepted at the conclusion of some evening programs.

Dinner reservations are requested by the Wednesday prior to the meeting and members will be called by the Executive Council. You may also make your reservation by emailing agodinner@grago.org or calling our Treasurer, Errol Shewman at 307-7241.

Monday, October 21, 2019

7:00 p.m. Concert

Reception in atrium following concert

Mayflower Congregational Church

2345 Robinson Road S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Organ Concert by Wolfgang RübSam



The German-born American organist, pianist and pedagogue, Wolfgang RübSam, first studied organ with Erich Ackermann in Fulda from 1963 to 1967. He then took up studies in church music at the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt am Main, which enabled him to join the organ class of [Helmut Walcha](#). A period of study at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where his organ teacher was Robert T. Anderson, culminated in 1971 in the degree of Master of Music. On his return to Germany he joined the master-classes of [Helmut Walcha](#) for a year and completed his organ examinations in Frankfurt. The years from 1971 to 1974 were spent in Paris as a pupil of [Marie-Claire Alain](#). In the course of his studies, he was successful in a number of competitions. In 1970 he won first prize in the National Organ Competition at Fort Wayne in Indiana. In 1972 he won two third prizes in international competitions at Nuremberg and Avilain Spain. In 1973 he won the Grand Prix d'Interpretation at Chartres.

In 1974, Wolfgang RübSam was appointed as professor of Church Music and Organ at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. In addition, he also served as University Organist at Rocke-

feller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago from 1981 until 1997. Since 1997, he has been professor of organ at the Hochschule für Musik Saar in Saarbrücken, Germany From 1998 until 2003; he was also artist in residence and university organist at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Wolfgang Rübsam has made extensive tours as organ virtuoso, and he performs frequently in major international festivals and concert halls, including the [Los Angeles Bach Festival](#); Wiener Festwochen, Vienna; Lahti International Organ Festival, Finland; Royal Festival Hall, London; Alice Tully Hall, New York, and others. He conducts master-classes in Europe and the USA, both in interpretation of early and romantic organ repertoire, and interpretation of the keyboard music of J.S. Bach. He has served on the juries for international competitions, such as the Grand Prix de Chartres and the Lahti International Organ Competition in Finland.

Wolfgang Rübsam is internationally known through his highly acclaimed recordings of organ works from the Baroque and Romantic periods. He has published more than 130 recordings, including two recordings of the complete organ works by Johann Sebastian Bach, the complete organ works of [Dietrich Buxtehude](#), [Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy](#), [César Franck](#), Louis Vierne, and Jehan Alain, as well as recordings of [Franz Liszt](#), [Johann Pachelbel](#), and [Max Reger](#). Currently, he is completing a recording of the 20 organ sonatas of [Josef Rheinberger](#). In addition, he has recorded a major part of the keyboard works of J.S. Bach on modern Bösendorfer pianos.

Monday, November 18, 2019

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Recital

Westminster Presbyterian Church

47 Jefferson Avenue S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Organ recital featuring

Quimby Young Organist Competition winner Noah Klein

From Northfield, Minnesota, Noah Klein began studying the piano at age 6 and the organ at age 11. He began accompanying church services at age 15. Following high school graduation, Noah attended school and lived with a host family for one year in South Korea as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program. He currently is a Premier Young Artist Scholar at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music where he studies organ performance with Dr. Janette Fishell. Noah serves as the music intern at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.



Monday, February 3, 2020

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program

Calvin University Chapel

1845 Knollcrest Circle S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49545

Program to be announced**Monday, March 16, 2020**

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program

Location and program to be announced**Sunday, April 19, 2020****3:00 p.m. Organ Recital****Trinity Lutheran Church**

2700 Fulton Street East

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Renee Louprette Organ Recital

Hailed by The New York Times as “splendid,” and “one of New York’s finest organists,” Renée Anne Louprette has established an international career as organ recitalist, conductor, and teacher. She is associated with a number of distinguished music programs in the New York City area, having served as Associate Director of Music at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Associate Director of Music and the Arts at Trinity Wall Street, Organist and Associate Director at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, and Director of Music at the Church of Notre Dame.

Upon receipt of a Master of Music degree in conducting from [Bard Col-](#)



State University.

Renée Anne Louprette has performed throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland, including at Westminster Abbey and the Temple Church in London, St. Giles Cathedral Edinburgh and Dunblane Cathedral (Scotland), Galway Cathedral and Dún Laoghaire (Ireland). In 2018, she made her solo debuts at the Royal Festival Hall in London and the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. Additional European festival appearances include Magadino, Switzerland; In Tempore Organi, Italy; Ghent and Hasselt, Belgium; Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark; Bordeaux Cathedral and Toulouse Les Orgues, France. She appeared as organ soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in Brisbane, Australia, in a performance of Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony broadcast live on ABC Radio. She regularly performs at regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and has been featured at two national conventions: the 2010 Convention in Washington, D.C., and the 2014 Convention in Boston where she presented the world premiere of Pamela Decker's Faneuil Hall. In July 2019, she presented a solo recital for the National Convention of the Organ Historical Society in Dallas, Texas.

Her recording of the "Great Eighteen Chorales" of J. S. Bach on the Metzler Organ in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, England, was named a classical music Critics' Choice 2014 by The New York Times. In February 2018, she released a recording of 20th-century French organ repertoire – "Une voix française – A French Voice" – on the Acis Productions label to critical acclaim. Her upcoming recordings include Bach's *Clavier-Übung III* on the Acis label, recorded on the Craighead-Saunders organ of Christ Church, Rochester, New York, and a collaborative recording of original compositions and arrangements of traditional Irish repertoire with Ivan Goff, recorded at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City.

Renée Anne Louprette holds a Master's degree in conducting from Bard College Conservatory where she studied conducting with James Bagwell and composition with Joan Tower, and a Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude in piano performance and a Graduate Professional Diploma in organ performance from The Hartt School, University of Hartford. She was awarded a Premier Prix – mention très bien from the Conservatoire National de Région de Toulouse, France and a Diplôme Supérieur in organ performance from the Centre d'Études Supérieures de Musique et de Danse de Toulouse, studying with Michel Bouvard and Jan Willem Jansen and improvisation with Philippe Lefebvre. She completed additional studies in organ with Dame Gillian Weir, James David Christie, and Guy Bovet.

Renée Anne Louprette is represented in North America exclusively by [Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC](#).

Monday, April 27, 2020

6:00 p.m. Punch Bowl

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Competition

First (Park) Congregational Church

10 East Park Place N.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition

The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was founded in 2013 by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother and is an annual competition. We thank him for his generous support of young organists.

- Eligibility – A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1 of the competition year and be a resident of Kent County, MI or any county adjacent to Kent County and/or a resident student attending a junior high school, senior high school, college, or university in Kent County or any county adjacent to Kent County (Ottawa, Muskegon, Newaygo, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry, or Allegan Counties)
- Previous first place winners of this competition are eligible to compete in this competition again in two years.
- Venue – Grand Rapids area pipe organ of high quality and versatility, varied from year to year
- Repertoire – Two or more pieces of contrasting styles and representing different time periods and a hymn

[SEE MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION ON THE GRAGO WEBSITE](#)

Monday, May 18, 2020

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program

Second Congregational Church

525 Cheshire Street N.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

An Evening with Composer John S. Dixon

Born in London, England, John S. Dixon (b. 1957) was classically trained in piano and organ. During his school years he was active in music in the Anglican church and was a founding member of The Southend Boys Choir, one of Britain's foremost youth choirs. He earned degrees from The Queen's College, Oxford University, and Harvard Business School. His composing has flourished since moving to America in 1988, largely through his involvement in the music ministry at Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, where he is currently organist and composer-in-residence. He has written hundreds of pieces for church and secular use.



Folias Duo



Trinity Lutheran Church

2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Sunday, October 6, 2019
3:00 p.m.**

Come hear Folias Duo for Celebration of Music Concert Series at Trinity Lutheran Church. This will be their official release party for their 7th album, *Delicate Omens*.

Flutist Carmen Maret and guitarist Andrew Bergeron, the husband-and-wife duo “daring in self-written music” (American Record Guide) continue to carve out their uncommon niche in the classical music world as performers who are also composers. The Folias Duo’s newest release of all original music, *Delicate Omens*, is a work that is the artistic culmination of seventeen years of traveling, performing, and writing by this spirited Michigan based flute and guitar duo.

<https://www.foliasmusic.com/product/delicate-omens/>

Would you like to give a recital?

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Battle Creek offers the service of Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of each month (October - June). Prior to this service, the historic 1929 E.M. Skinner pipe organ is featured in a 25 minute pre-service recital. More information about the instrument can be found at <https://www.stthomasbc.org/music>.

Any area organists interested in performing one of these programs should contact Dr. Stephen White at music@StThomasBC.org. Other than being sensitive to the liturgical season, repertoire selection is open to the performer.

MUSIC AT MID-DAY

A Free Concert Series in the City

Concerts (12:15pm - 12:45pm) are free to all.

An optional \$6 lunch (11:15am - 1:15pm) is available before or after the performance. Soup, salad bar, bread, beverage, and cookies are served.

Announcing Fall 2019

October 22 - Steven B. Smith, organ

October 29 - Paul Austin Trio

November 5 - Dr. Chris Dekker, organ

November 12 - Michael Bloss, organ

November 19 - Steve VanRavenswaay, cello

November 26 - Rhonda Edgington, organ

December 3 - Penny Kindraka, handbells

December 10 - Caledonia Choralaires

First (Park) Congregational Church

10 East Park Place N.E.



MAYFLOWER
Congregational Church

2345 Robinson Road SE
616-459-6255



This is a free concert series held on
Monday evenings in October at 7:00 pm
mayflowerchurch.org

MONDAYS AT MAYFLOWER

- OCTOBER 7 -

BACH AND THE CELLO

Pablo Mahave-Veglia

All-Bach program performed
on his five-string baroque cello



- OCTOBER 14 -

BACH AND MOZART AT HOME

Gregory Crowell

Playing a rare clavichord built
by Arnold Dolmetsch made in 1906



- OCTOBER 21 -

GOURMET FRENCH COLORS

Wolfgang Rübsam

In collaboration with the Grand Rapids
Chapter of the American Guild of Organists





EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

2019 Utech Hymn Tune Competition

The 2019 Utech Hymn Competition is now concluded.

We are pleased to announce the winning submission and its composer:

PARADISE

Dr. Larry Visser

Minister of Music and Chancel Organist

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church



The 2019 Utech Hymn Competition called for a congregational hymn setting of a newly commissioned hymn text by Dr. Carl Daw, "Out of Silence Music Rises." Entries were accepted through the month of July, and judging took place during August and September. The judges were:

- Dr. John Ferguson: Professor of Organ and Cantor Emeritus, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.
- Mr. Peter DuBois: Director of Music and Organist, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY.
- Dr. Jennifer Pascual: Director of Music and Organist, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

PARADISE was selected from 131 individual entries. The composition will receive its first singing on November 1st, at the 2019 Utech Hymn Festival Evensong. Dr. Visser will also be the recipient of the \$3,000 Utech Hymn Competition Prize.



2019-2020 CONCERT SERIES

SACRED *sounds* AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
5:00 PM



A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

Anticipate Christ's birth in this service of scripture readings and new and traditional carols sung by the St. Mark's Choir under the direction of Gregory Crowell.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
5:00 PM



Ensemble Rebel

Praised by the Los Angeles Times for their "astonishingly vital music-making," this award-winning, New York-based ensemble is one of North America's top-tier groups specializing in Baroque music played on period instruments.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
5:00 PM



Ruth Cunningham

A founder member of the famed vocal quartet Anonymous 4, Ruth Cunningham presents a solo recital of vocal improvisations and readings, taking listeners on a fascinating spiritual journey.

SUNDAY, MAY 3
5:00 PM



Blue Heron

Winner of the 2018 Gramophone Classical Music Award for Early Music, this renowned choir returns to St. Mark's to perform one of the great masterpieces of the Renaissance, Jean Ockeghem's Missa Quinti Toni.

Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter

2019-2020 Programs

Complete details will be printed in your directory.

October 27, 2019 (Sunday) 4 p.m. "Pipes Spooktacular" First Presbyterian Church—Grand Haven

November 10, 2019 (Sunday) 3 p.m. "Young Artist: Matthew Wachtman" Central United Methodist Church—Muskegon

December—No Scheduled Meeting

January 10, 2020 (Friday) 6:30 p.m. "Twelfth Night Party" Home of Shane Arkels—Muskegon

February 29, 2020 (Saturday) 9-11a.m. "Choral Workshop" — Dr. Michael Match Mona Shores MS Choir Room—Muskegon

March 15, 2020 (Sunday) 3 p.m. "In Memoriam: A Members' Recital" First Congregational Church UCC—Muskegon

April 19, 2020 (Sunday) 4 p.m. "Young Artist: Emily Amos" First Presbyterian Church—Grand Haven

May 8, 2020 (Friday) Time TBA "60th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration" Prince of Peace Catholic Church—Muskegon

Feeding the Soul of the City

2019-2020

All performances are held Tuesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

October 22, 2019 "Matthew Ball, boogie-woogie piano"

November 26, 2019 "Lee Murdock, The Christmas Ship" (folk music)

December 8, 2019 5 p.m. "Festival of Lessons & Carols" Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

December 17, 2019 "Christmas at the Organ" Peter Kurdziel

February 25, 2020 "Grand Valley Faculty Brass Quintet"

March 24, 2020 "Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet"

April 14, 2020 "Gregory Maytan, violin" May 26, 2020 "Quintessence, Woodwind Quintet"

June 9, 2020 "Denise Newell, mezzo soprano and Caron Farmer, piano"

Please join us for a

Spooktacular!

Organ Recital

The program will include the famous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor,
by J. S. Bach as well as other spine chilling pieces.

Sunday, October 27

4:00 p.m.

All who dare are
welcome to attend!

Costumes encouraged!

Admission is free

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
508 FRANKLIN,
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
616.842.6730

