



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

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THE CIPHER

March 2020

From Our Dean

Hello Everyone!

As March comes in like a Lamb and spring is almost here, your Board is working on a new season for next year. This is where **YOU** need to help us. We have ideas, thoughts for programs, but we are also looking for your input. What types of programs would you like to attend? Do you have a presenter/topic? Are you longing for a certain type of program? Please let me know! Our overall participation in programs in this year has been lower than desirable and so **our board would like to hear from you!**

This month we had scheduled an evening of supporting our young organists in the Grand Rapids area in the way of a recital. Because our timing in this program and our Annamae Rotman Competition, we have decided to not have a young organist meeting this month because they are needing to prepare for the competition.

So we invite you to mark your calendars for our two opportunities in April. **April 19, 3pm** to hear Renee Louprette in Recital at Trinity Lutheran Church. Also, on **April 27, Park Congregational Church** will be the host for our Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition. This is an exciting time and a fun evening of supporting our area young organists.

We will also be reaching out to our membership to volunteer for the Annamae Rotmann competition. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Peter Kurdziel](#), [Becky Snippe](#), or [myself](#).

See you all next month!

Kevin Soodsma, Dean
kevin.soodsma@gmail.com



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.

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 College](#) in May 2019, Ms. Louprette was appointed Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Bard. She continues as coordinator of the organ studio at [Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University](#), where she has been University Organist since 2013. She is a former member of the organ faculty at the Manhattan School of Music,



The Hartt School of the University of Hartford, and the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair 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.



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.

March 10	Dr. Larry Visser, organ
March 17	Diane Penning, soprano
March 24	River Rogues
March 31	MacRaven
April 7	No Concert
April 14	Jonathan Tuuk, organ
April 21	Grand Rapids Christian High Chamber Chorale
April 28	Mary Rademacher, jazz vocals
May 5	Bruce Robey and Friends

First (Park) Congregational Church
10 East Park Place N.E.
Grand Rapids



[Click here for music events at](#)

[Calvin for the month of March 2020](#)



Hope COLLEGE

[Click here for music events at](#)

[Hope for the month of March 2020](#)



[Click here for music events at](#)

[Grand Rapids Community College](#)

[for the month of March 2020](#)



[Click here for music events at](#)

[Grand Valley State University](#)

[for the month of March 2020](#)

Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter**2019-2020 Programs**

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.

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"

HOLLAND AGO CHAPTER EVENTS

March 23, 2020 (Mon) - 7pm - Local Composers Forum with Larry Visser - Second Reformed Church in Zeeland

Following the success of our local composers forum last year, we invite Larry Visser of LaGrave CRC in Grand Rapids and accomplished composer to share the evening with us. Members will play their Visser favorites, and Larry will share with us about his compositions and musical journey.

April 20, 2020 (Mon) - 7pm - The Aging Voice with Prof. Linda Dykstra - Hope College, Jack Miller, Choral Rehearsal Room

Many of us work with aging singers in our church and community choirs. Prof. Dykstra will share best practices for singing as we (all!) age, and how to get the best sound from a group, no matter what their age.

May 18 (Mon) - 7pm - Handbells with Larry and Carla Sue - Third Reformed in Holland

Larry and Carla Sue moved to Holland, MI recently, but are well-known in handbell circles nationally and internationally, and they travel around the country to perform and lecture, as well as composing for handbells. We'll learn handbell techniques from them, hear how they found love through handbell playing, and have the opportunity to ask our burning handbell questions!

HELP PUBLICIZE THE YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION FOR APRIL

Download, Print and Display one or more the following pdfs

There are two different posters in two size: Letter and Legal

[Letter size with keys](#)

[Legal size with keys](#)

[Letter size with pipes](#)

[Legal size with pipes](#)

The Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
is pleased to announce the seventh annual



ANNAMAE ROTMAN
**Young Organist
Competition**



7:30PM
Monday, April 27TH



First (Park) Congregational Church

10 E Park PL NE · Grand Rapids, MI



Entering the Narrow Gate 2020-2021

School of Spiritual Formation -- Year-long Program

Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church

2700 Fulton St E Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Staff Contact: kris.baker@tlcgr.org 616.949.2510, x 110

Program Facilitator: Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP: (616) 560-4580 or nbrousseau@aol.com

Open to anyone who would like to explore the classic elements of monastic, spiritual & contemplative life to discover how this ancient wisdom, learning and spiritual practice might be understood and lived in new settings & life today. The program offers a reflective personal & transformative process for all who desire a deeper life in Spirit and more intentional living of the Christian life. The rich and inspiring teaching is centered on the saints, mystics and spiritual teachers of the Christian centuries, personal contemplative prayer practice, lively conversations, and living of a personal Rule of Life.

September 2020 to June 2021, Ten Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- (please bring your lunch, coffee/hot water provided)

Ten sessions, 9:30 am-4:30 pm; one Thursday per month (separate registration form available)

Tuition: \$600 (Payment in full or 50% due with registration and 50% due in February)

Required books (may be purchased on Amazon.com at reduced cost) Required editions:

The Wisdom Jesus by Cynthia Bourgeault; *The Rule of Benedict*, Ed., Timothy Fry Liturgical Press, 1982; *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Rolheiser., *The Cloud of Unknowing* translated by Carmen Acevedo Butcher, 2009; *The Spiritual Life* by Evelyn Underhill; *Joan of Arc* by Mark Twain – with trial proceedings included; Publisher: Ignatius Press; 1st edition (September 1, 1989)

Recommended:

The Deeper Journey by M. Robert Mulholland, jr

The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr

Course Requirements:

- Attendance at all sessions
- Preparation for each session, required readings (short background and/or readings from the original writings of each spiritual teacher) and journal questions emailed to participants prior to each session. Participation in class discussion is expected.
- Participation in a four-day silent directed retreat during the year is encouraged – Dates TBD
- Participants are encouraged to have a spiritual director during the year
- Those completing this first year may apply for an 18-month Formation Program & Practicum for becoming a Spiritual Director. Program begins Sept. 2021 at Christ United Church, DeWitt, MI.

Program Schedule for 2020-2021:

9/10/2020 Gospel according to John
Paschal Mystery and Spiritual Journey
10/8 Mothers & Fathers of the Desert
Contemplative Prayer & Approaches to God
11/12 St. Benedict and St. Scholastica
St. Hildegard of Bingen
12/10 St. Francis & St. Clare
Meister Eckhart
1/14/2021 Beguine Women's Movement
St. Catherine of Siena

2/11 Julian of Norwich
Cloud of Unknowing
3/11 St. Teresa of Avila
St. John of the Cross
4/15 St. Ignatius of Loyola
St. Oscar Romero
5/13 St. Joan of Arc
Evelyn Underhill
6/10 Dorothy Day
Thomas Merton

**Entering the Narrow Gate 2020-2021
School of Spiritual Formation Year-Long Program**

Hosted by:

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI
Registration – 2020-2021**

Tuition: \$600 (50% due with registration and 50% due in February)

Make checks payable to Dominican Sisters
(please print Narrow Gate on memo line of check)

Mail completed registration form with payment to:

Trinity Lutheran Church,

2700 Fulton St E Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Staff Contact: kris.baker@tlcgr.org 616.949.2510, x 110

Facilitator, Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP

Email: nbrousseau@aol.com Cell: 616-560-4580

Program Facilitator: Sister Nancy Brousseau, OP, DMin is a Dominican Sister of Grand Rapids, MI. Nancy served as the Director of the Dominican Center at Marywood in Grand Rapids for five years and was Director of Spirituality Programs there for six years. Prior to those years, she was Director of St. Joseph Educational Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Sr. Nancy has an MA in Religious Education, a M.Div. from St. John's (now Sacred Heart) Seminary in Detroit and a D.Min. in Spiritual Direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She offers retreats, spiritual direction, workshops and programs in prayer, spirituality and spiritual formation.

- Ten Thursdays, 9:30am-4:30pm; one Thursday per month, September-June
- Dates: 9/10, **2020**; 10/8; 11/12; 12/10; 1/14, **2021**; 2/11; 3/11, 4/15; 5/13, 6/10
- Coffee available; please bring your lunch/beverage; snack to share if you wish

_____ **Please mail this bottom portion with your check** _____

Registration: Entering the Narrow Gate Trinity Lutheran 2020-2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY

Marcelo Lehninger, Music Director



Sunday, March 15 | 3 PM

Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin University

Grand Rapids Symphony John Varineau, Conductor

Jessica Coe Soprano | Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus Pearl Shangkuan, Director

Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses Leah & Sean Ivory, Co-Directors

featuring

DAN FORREST *Requiem for the Living* | **SEAN IVORY** *I Will Rise*

Don't miss this special collaboration with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus, and the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus at the Covenant Fine Arts Center on the campus of Calvin University. If you love choral music, this concert is especially for you!

Tickets are just \$20, \$5 for students.

Call 616.454.9451 x 4 to get your tickets now!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Be sure to add "info@grsymphony.org" to your address book.

[Click here to view this email online.](#)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm

300 Ottawa NW, Suite 100

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

DAY: 616.454.9451, Ext. 4

GRSymphony.org

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