



# THE CIPHER

October 2021

## **The Executive Committee of Grand Rapids AGO 2021-2022**

### **Officers**

[Julia Brown](#), Co-Dean

[Carol McNally](#), Co-Dean

[Chris Witte](#), Treasurer

[John Tiemstra](#), Secretary

### **Council Members at Large**

[Matthew Jakubisin](#)

[Larry Biser](#)

[Miah Han](#)

### **Members Ex-Officio**

[Dennis Buteyn](#),  
Webmaster, Cipher Editor

[Kevin Soodsma](#)  
Membership & Directory

[Peter Kurdziel](#)  
Competitions

[Rebecca Snippe](#)  
Competitions

[The Rev. Dr. John D. Witvliet](#)  
Chaplain

## **From Our Co-Deans**

Dear GRAGO friends and colleagues,

What a joy it was to come together to share in worship as a group. Forty-five people were present at our first in-person GRAGO gathering since the Covid pandemic began. The handbell duo, Carla and Larry Sue, played and their music was mesmerizing! Rhonda Edgington hosted the event at Calvin University and accompanied the bells on the organ. The Rev. Dr. John Witvliet led us through the moving liturgy. Michael Match, countertenor and Dean of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chapter, and treble, Ben Zuzelski, offered several duets throughout the service. Caron Farmer, Regional Councilor, installed the officers of both the Grand Rapids and Muskegon Lakeshore Chapters. Dr. Larry Visser tied it all together accompanying the beautiful hymns and ended the service with Marche Triomphale by Dubois. We especially thank Larry for sharing his hymn, Out of Silence Music Rises (Paradise). This hymn, with text by Carl P. Daw, Jr., was the winner of the 2019 Utech Hymn Competition. A reception followed the service in the chapel's narthex.

Now we turn to October. We will gather at the Cathedral of St. Andrew on **Monday, October 18, at 7:30pm**. Our program this month will celebrate young organists from our chapter in recital. AGO National defines a young organist as one who is thirty years old or younger. As National has declared this as 'the year of the young organist', we had to have a program celebrating this. We have eight young artists who will present music for us. We hope you will come to support these organists as they pursue careers in music. Many thanks to Matthew Jakubisin, Music Director for the Cathedral of St. Andrew, for organizing and hosting this event for us.

Just a quick bit of business here. Are your AGO dues up-to-date? If no, please go to [www.agohq.org/membership](http://www.agohq.org/membership) to renew. If you happen to be a 'young organist', your membership this year is free! In addition to the meeting provided by your chapter, your dues help to support the AGO at both the local and national levels.

Happy fall,

Carol McNally and Julia Brown  
Co-Deans



## 2021-22 Program Year

Here is the lineup of AGO meetings for the 2021-22 season. Our meetings take place at various venues throughout the area and are typically the third Monday evening of the month with some exceptions.

**Monday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. – “Year of the Young Organist: Investing in our Future”.**

**Cathedral of St. Andrew  
215 Sheldon Blvd SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

### 2021 Grand Rapids Young Organists Recital

In celebration of the American Guild of Organists’ *Year of the Young Organist*, eight young organists of the Grand Rapids AGO Chapter will perform in recital on October 18, 2021 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. The performers represent a diverse group of musicians studying and working in various denominations throughout West Michigan.

Organists Jonathan Bading, Andrew Chesebro, Bethany Dame, Aaron Goodyke, Chan Gyu Jang, Jordan Malone, Audrey Thomas, and Katarina Woldt will offer a varied program of music on the Cathedral’s 2002 Letourneau organs. Celebrate the work and dedication of West Michigan’s young organists and enjoy their music in a beautiful setting.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday October 18, 2021. The Cathedral of Saint Andrew is located at 215 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids.



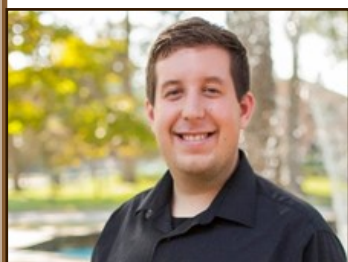
**Jonathan Bading** is the Director of Sacred Music at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Grand Rapids, where he serves as organist and directs several parish choirs. He also founded and directs Gaudete Grand Rapids, a choral ensemble dedicated to performing the perennial music of the Roman Rite in the context for which it was written, the Traditional Latin Mass. Mr. Bading holds a B.Mus. in Organ Performance from Hope College, where he studied with Huw Lewis. He has studied Gregorian chant in France on two academic grants and received First Prize in the An-na-mae Rotman Young Organist Competition in 2018. Jonathan enjoys living with his family on the West Side, a stone's throw away from their parish.



**Andrew Chesebro**, a student of Dr. Joan Ringerwole, has studied organ for two years, and enjoys playing Bach with his eyes closed. Home-schooled from his birth, he expects to graduate from high school this year. He hopes to study criminal justice and organ in college, possibly at Dordt University. Some of his other interests are trumpet, piano, percussion, and running.



**Bethany Dame** is a Junior at Hope College studying Organ Performance Major under the instruction of Dr. Huw Lewis. Some organ accolades include placing first in the MFMC and Rotman organ competitions in 2019, and playing at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Her musical studies have also included twelve years of piano and nine years of percussion. In addition to organ, Bethany is pursuing a degree in Wave Sciences at Hope College, and has been selected to be a lab assistant for a virtual physics lab. Her hometown is Kentwood, Michigan.



**Aaron Goodyke** grew up in the Zeeland/Holland area, graduating in 2016 *Summa Cum Laude* from Hope College, earning a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Education with an emphasis in organ studies with Dr. Huw Lewis. He regularly performs and collaborates with area musicians and ensembles at several venues throughout West Michigan, and is a member of the Holland and Grand Rapids Area AGO chapters and the Michigan School

Vocal Music Association (MSVMA). He serves as the Middle School Choir Director at Caledonia Community Schools, 6-7-8-9 SSA State Honors Choir Coordinator for the MSVMA, and Secretary for the Caledonia Education Association. Aaron and his wife Kristin recently became Co-Directors of Music at Second Reformed Church in Zeeland, where they coordinate a vibrant music program and the Second Recital Series.



**Chan Gyu Jang** is the Director of Worship and Music at Seymour Christian Reformed Church and the Resource Development Specialist for Web-based Liturgical Resources at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. He is a graduate of Calvin University (Music Theory and Psychology) and Calvin Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity). He recently earned a Certificate in Editing from the University of Chicago Graham School and is currently completing his Master of Theology

program at Calvin Theological Seminary. Chan fell in love with the organ when he was a sophomore at Calvin University. His passion toward the instrument and its pastoral role in worship was inspired and guided by his teacher Norma deWaal Malefyt.



**Jordan Malone** is currently a student attending Aquinas College, studying Liturgical Music with his instrument being organ. He also serves as the Director of Music at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, as well as the Student Pastoral Musician at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom chapel at Aquinas College. In his free time, you can find him working his third job at Circle Theatre as an Experience Associate. He also sings with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys.



**Audrey Thomas** is the Director of Sacred Music at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Holland, Michigan. She holds a Master's Degree in Sacred Music and Organ from the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor's Degree in Organ from the University of Kansas, where she studied with Dr. Craig Cramer and Dr. Michael Bauer, respectively. During her academic studies, Audrey worked with the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir, University of Kansas Bales Chorale, and the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center Choir. In 2018, Audrey won second place in the Fort Wayne National Organ Competition. She has participated in organ festivals and academic tours in the Netherlands and Germany. Audrey teaches courses on sacred music for the Lakeshore Academy for the New Evangelization (LANE) in Holland, Michigan.



**Katarina Woldt** is studying biochemistry and public health on the premed track at Calvin University. On campus, she is a Sustainability Coordinator, plays euphonium in the Wind Ensemble, sings with the Knightengals acapella vocal ensemble, and is part of the leadership team for the pre-health club. She enjoys singing in choirs, rock climbing, hiking, and reading in her free time. She has studied piano for 13 years and organ for 1. She is grateful to be studying organ for another year, having received the Norine E. Potts scholarship at Calvin University and the Kathryn Loew scholarship from the Southwest Michigan chapter of the AGO.



**Sunday, November 14, 3:00 p.m. – Renée Anne Louprette in recital**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**2700 Fulton Street East**

**East Grand Rapids, MI 49506**



Hailed by The New York Times as “splendid” and “one of New York’s finest organists”, Renée Anne Louprette performs widely as organ recitalist, accompanist, and teacher. Based near New York City, she has performed with many of the city’s premiere ensembles, including the Mostly Mozart Orchestra and the New York Choral Society, and she has appeared in Carnegie, David Geffen Hall (formerly Avery Fisher Hall), Alice Tully, and Merkin Halls. Her recording of J. S. Bach’s “Great Eighteen Chorales” (on the Axis label) was named Critics’ Choice 2014 by The New York Times. In February 2018, Acis released her new CD, *One Voix Française: A French Voice*. She frequently collaborates with Irish pipes Ivan Goff and the American Brass Quintet. Ms. Louprette is University Organist and Coordinator of the Organ Department at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

**Friday, December 31, 7:00 p.m. – New Year’s Eve Concert**

**Central Reformed Church**

**10 College Avenue N.E.**

**Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Featuring Gregory Hand from University of Iowa. Childcare available. Reception following



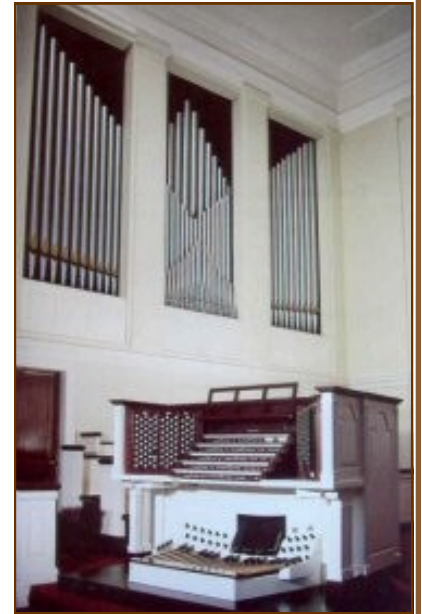
Gregory Hand is associate professor of organ at the University of Iowa. Prior to this appointment he held the position of University Chapel Organist at Northwestern University, where he also taught in the Music Theory department. He was awarded the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan, where he studied organ with James Kibbie and harpsichord with Edward Parmentier.

Dr. Hand is in high demand as a performer and pedagogue. He was recently appointed to a five-year term on the jury of the Internationale Orgelwoche Nürnberg (ION), and has given recitals and masterclasses in the United States, France, Spain, Germany and Brazil.

His debut CD, “The Complete Gospel Preludes of William Bolcom” on the Naxos label marked the world premiere recording of all twelve of these landmark pieces. Critics praised the recording as “stunning” (American Record Guide) and noted the “sonorous and probing performances” (Gramophone), and the “brilliance of his technique” (allmusic.com).

**Monday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. - 2022 Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition****Mayflower Congregational Church****2345 Robinson Road S.E.****Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was founded and underwritten by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother, Annamae Rotman. The competition is for young organists under 24, residing in or a student in Kent and adjacent counties. Location is Mayflower Congregational Church, and updated information is on our website. The application will be available on our website after January 14, and deadline to apply is February 15. Encourage all young organists in your circle to apply! For more information please visit our website. <https://grago.org/competitions/>

**Monday, March 21 – John Dixon, composer**

6:30 p.m. Punch bowl

7:00 p.m. dinner

8:00 p.m. program

**Second Congregational Church, U.C.C.****525 Cheshire Drive N.E.****Grand Rapids, MI 49505**

Born in England, composer/organist John S. Dixon has lived in Virginia for thirty years. Since 1990 he has written more than 800 pieces, mostly for organ, but also for choirs and instrumental ensembles. He is the organist at Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, and serves as the executive director of the Academy of Music, a community music school based in Norfolk. Currently he holds the office of Treasurer/Councilor for Finance and Development of the American Guild of Organists. John will play a program of his own compositions, including arrangements of familiar melodies, and explain why and how the pieces were composed. After the concert he will have complimentary pieces available for organists to take home.

**Sunday, May 15, 3: p.m., Basilica of St. Adalbert**

**Basilica of St. Adalbert  
654 Davis Avenue, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**Monday, May 16, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. concert, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church**

**LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church  
107 LaGrave Avenue S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

### **César Franck Bicentennial:**

Scott Dettra performs the complete organ works of César Franck in two recitals, at the Basilica of St.



Adalbert and at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church. Thanks to his mature harmonic language and ability to write achingly beautiful melodies, Franck's music has become an enduring foundation of the organ repertoire. Praised for the clarity, rhythmic intensity and musical elegance of his playing, Mr. Dettra will bring his hallmark poeticism and suave sense of expression to this beloved music, which is rarely performed live in its entirety.

## **YEAR OF THE YOUNG ORGANIST**

National AGO has named 2021 "Year of the Young Organist." This means that any young organist (defined as under 30) can join the guild or renew their current membership for free. This is the perfect time to engage more young organists in our chapter. More information about the membership subsidy can be found at [agohq.org/free-membership](https://agohq.org/free-membership)

**Find us on Facebook**

We would like to invite you to join the Grand Rapids AGO Facebook Page.

We post updates about upcoming events, and you can post your events there as well.

<https://www.facebook.com/GrandRapidsAGO>

**Our Chapter website can be found at:** <http://grago.org/>

There is lots of useful information including history of the Grand Rapids Chapter, listing of substitute organists and music instructors. You will also find a page with much information about organs in Grand Rapids including some audio and video files, a comprehensive listing of programs for the year, an archive of several years of The Cipher, updated information about the organ competitions and many links to organizations such as all of our Michigan Chapters of AGO; performing groups; colleges and universities; various music societies and Associations; music supply firms and a number of musical periodicals.

**If you have any events you would like publicized, positions available or anything you would like disseminated to our membership please send to Dennis Buteyn at [dlbuteyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dlbuteyn@sbcglobal.net).**