



**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

THE CIPHER

November 2021

From Our Co-Deans

Dear GRAGO friends and colleagues,

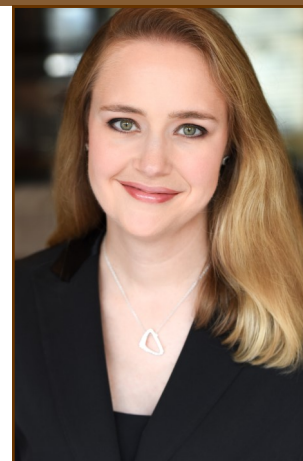
Our young organist recital on October 18 was a resounding success! Thank you, Matt Jakubisin and Cathedral of St. Andrew, for hosting this wonderful concert, featuring eight young organists playing the 2002 Letourneau organs in the beautiful, resonant space. There were many attending from our chapter, neighboring chapters, and others from the wider community.



L to r: Jonathan Bading, Aaron Goodyke, Chan Gyu Jang, Katerina Woldt, Jordan Malone, Bethany Dame, Audrey Thomas, not pictured: Andrew Chesebro

This month we are collaborating with Trinity Lutheran's Celebration of Music Concert Series. You won't want to miss Renee Anne Louprette in recital on Sunday, November 14 at 3pm. Her dazzling and thoughtful playing will be showcased in a program that includes works of J. S. Bach, early Spanish composers, Boulanger, Durufle, George Baker and Messiaen.

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 Geffin 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.



In addition to our own programs, I invite you to attend our neighboring chapters’ programs, highlighted later in this newsletter. It is good to be able to enjoy live music again!



Julia Brown and Carol McNally. 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.

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

2700 Fulton Street East

East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

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., Venue TBD**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 Cesar Franck in two recitals, the first at a venue to be determined and at the second at LaGrave CRC.

Hailed as a “brilliant organist” (*Dallas Morning News*), an “outstanding musician” (*The Diapason*), and described as a “prodigy” by *The New York Times* at age 13, Scott Dettra is acclaimed as one of America’s leading concert organists. Mr. Dettra’s playing is praised for its



clarity, rhythmic intensity, and musical elegance, and has been described by *The American Organist* as “music making of absolute authority and sophisticated expression.” He combines an active performance schedule with his post as Director of Music at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, where he leads a vibrant music ministry in one the country’s largest Episcopal parishes. In addition to his work at Incarnation, he is a member of the organ faculty at Southern Methodist University, and is organist of The Crossing, the Grammy-winning professional chamber choir based in Philadelphia. Prior to his appointment in Dallas, he was Organist of Washington National Cathedral.

From our Neighboring Chapters

Holland Chapter:

We hope that members of the Grand Rapids Chapter can join us for a workshop on Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Composers for the Organ, presented by Brenda Portman from Cincinnati, Ohio. This will be at 7:30 on Monday, November 22 at Hope Church, 77 W. 11th Street in Holland. At this time, masks are required at Hope Church.

We appreciated the money given to us by your chapter at the time of the Regional Convention and are using it to finance this program. If you have any questions, please contact me

[Julia Colingsworth](#), Dean of Holland AGO



Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter:



Emily Amos, 2nd place winner of the Quimby Competition in Grand Rapids, recorded a VIRTUAL recital for the Muskegon Chapter on October 17 which is available for one month (through the middle of November). You can access the recital at the direct link:

https://youtu.be/ghb_VCL3etU

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Park Congregational Church

**10 East Park Place N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

MUSIC AT MID-DAY

A Free Concert Series in the City

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

**Fall 2021**

November 2 - Dr. Christopher Dekker, organ

November 9 - Ma non troppo, woodwind trio

November 16 - Diane Penning, soprano and Robert Byrens, piano

November 23 - NO CONCERT

November 30 - Jonathan Tuuk, organ

December 7 - Caledonia Choralaires

An optional \$7.00 lunch (11:15am - 1:15pm) is available
before or after the performance.

Soups, sandwiches, beverages, and cookies are served.

HOLLAND BACH SOCIETY



J. S. Bach

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Bach talk and concert preview - Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The Holland Bach Society invites you to join internationally renowned organist and Hope College professor Dr. Huw Lewis and Holland Bach Society founder and director Scott Vanden Berg at 14th Street Christian Reformed Church on Wednesday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. for a talk about the significant contributions of Johann Sebastian Bach to church music. Come for a delightful preview of the music that will be shared in local worship services on November 14 and 21.

Holland Bach Society participates in local worship services

You are invited to join the Holland Bach Society in its inaugural events this November. The Holland Bach Society was created to raise an awareness of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and to work with local congregations to bring these musically and theologically rich compositions to their worship services. The Holland Bach Society will be presenting Bach's cantata *Wachet Auf*, along with selections from Bach's cello suites, an Aria from *St. Matthew's Passion*, organ music, and more. Some of the finest musicians from the Lakeshore have teamed up to share these special events with the Holland and Zeeland communities. Come join us!

<https://hollandbachsociety.org/>

Sunday, Nov. 14, 5:00 p.m., Second Reformed Church in Zeeland, Mich.

Sunday, Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m., Fourteenth St. Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.

Sunday, Nov. 21, 5:00 p.m., Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Holland, Mich.



Year of the Young Organist: Investing in Our Future with free membership info

This young organist campaign has brought over 400 new young members to the American Guild of Organists since this summer, and Grand Rapids is among the chapter contributing to this rise in membership. Let's continue to reach out to those who could benefit from engaging in our professional organization. Membership to anyone under 30 is FREE

for a year! More information can be found at <https://www.agohq.org/free-membership/>

Membership renewal

If you haven't already joined or renewed your AGO membership via ON-CARD, now is the time to do so. To renew or become a Grand Rapids Chapter AGO member, just go online:

New members: https://ago.networkats.com/members_online/members/ago_new_member.asp

Renewing members: <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/>

If you have questions, or need assistance, you can call (212)870 - 2310 and they will help you with the process. If you are more comfortable sending a check, it can be sent by mail to:

American Guild of Organists

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260

New York, NY 10115

Checks should be made out to the American Guild of Organists,

Current member categories are: Regular Member (\$105), Young Organists (\$0), Special, 65 and older (\$80). Chapter Friends are \$35.

All members receive The American Organist magazine by default. If you wish to opt out of receiving the paper copy by mail, you can indicate as such and save \$8. The magazine can be read on-line at:

<https://www.agohq.org/current-issue/>

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/>

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.