



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

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THE CIPHER

February 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

We continue to look for ways to connect, meet safely and interact in spite of the continued pandemic.

This month we encourage our members to attend a few local events of interest. These include the Calvin Symposium on Music <https://worship.calvin.edu/event-programs/2022-calvin-symposium-on-worship> January 31 to Feb 4 (free, but you need to register online. Includes both vital and in-person events) and Dr. James Kibbie's recital at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 27 at 3pm. As part of the church's Celebration series, Dr. Kibbie is here to celebrate the Létourneau organ, which he dedicated 30 years ago. The program includes some of the repertoire he performed at that time.

Looking ahead to summer, I hope you are planning to attend the AGO National Convention in Seattle, July 3-7. <https://agoseattle2022.com/> Having lived on the west coast for 20 years, I can speak to the beauty and vibrancy of that region. The Flentrop organ from 1965 at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral is a landmark tracker instrument that has had an enormous influence on the direction of organbuilding in the Pacific Northwest. Other spectacular organs are the Hutchings-Votey (1907) / Rosales (2000) at St. James Cathedral and C. B. Fisk (2000) in Benaroya Hall, home of the Seattle Symphony. Exquisite craftsmanship from the Pacific Northwest can be seen and heard in the instruments by John Brombaugh, Paul Fritts and Martin Pasi. All of this in and around the vibrant city of Seattle, with its stunning scenery and beautiful summers. Young Organists can go for a reduced rate, and can sign up for scholarships (information below).

Other opportunities for young organists this summer include the Pipe Organ Encounters, and, for more advanced students and young professionals, the totally funded Organ Institute of the Oregon Bach Festival. Please see information below.

Now is the time to sign up to help the Rotman competition, which is in-person again this year, at Mayflower Congregational Church. Please see the request from co-chair Peter Kurdziel below.

We look forward to seeing you at our guild and local events. Help us spread the word, sign up as a volunteer, and come be a part of our events.

Carol and Julia



New Year's Eve Concert in Review:

On December 31, our chapter co-sponsored the Annual New Year's Eve Organ Concert at Central Reformed Church, featuring Dr. Gregory Hand, Associate Professor of Organ at the University of Iowa. Dr. Hand presented works of Bach, Demessieux, Liszt, Widor, Dupré, and Karg-Elert and concluded the concert with an arrangement of Auld Lang Syne. Central Reformed Director of Music Ministries, Taemin Han, is excited to bring back this long-standing Grand Rapids tradition. Pictured are Gregory Hand, Will Hand (back), Taemin Han, Miah Han (front)



In preparation for our Rotman Competition in March, we are in need of volunteers

The Rotman Competition is in need of volunteers! We need room monitors and page turners for competitors. The competition is being held at Mayflower Church this year. Please look over the times below and contact co-chair Peter Kurdziel (music@basilicagr.org) to sign up. Although page turners are required to be music readers, room monitors need only their enthusiasm for the next generation of organists.

Saturday, March 12, 10am-2pm

Sunday, March 13, 1pm-7pm

Monday, March 14, 9am-5pm

SEATTLE AGO National Convention

The National Convention of the American Guild of Organists is held biennially in even-numbered years and reflects the diverse aspects of the Guild and its official work across the country. Registration is now open for this summer's National Convention in Seattle, July 3-7. Supersaver prices end January 31, and the earlier you register, the better the rates (registration for young organist, under the age of 30 is only \$250).

2022 Seattle, Washington, July 3-7

<https://agoseattle2022.com/>



Scholarships For National Convention

The Young Organist Steering Committee of the National Convention in Seattle is offering \$10,000 in scholarships for AGO young organists to attend the convention. Details and an application form can be found at <https://www.agohq.org/scholarships/>

Pipe Organ Encounters offer teenagers and adults a rewarding opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and its construction, instruction with experienced faculty, visits to hear and play outstanding instruments, and the chance to meet and interact with peers who share an interest in the King of Instruments. List of locations and dates for 2022 can be found at <https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>



2022 Calvin Symposium on Worship

January 31 - February 4, 2022

<https://worship.calvin.edu/event-programs/2022-calvin-symposium-on-worship>

One of the events on January 31 is particularly applicable to many of our AGO members:

Rewards and Challenges in the life of a Part-Time Organist: a discussion between students and professionals, facilitated by Prof. Rhonda Sider Edgington of Calvin University with Aaron Goodyke (Holland, MI), Randall Engle (Troy, MI) John Deppe (Grand Rapids, MI), and John Tiemstra (Grand Rapids, MI), and the organ students of Calvin University.

Monday, January 31 6:30-7:30pm at Calvin University, as part of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Synposium 2022

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, February 27, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. James Kibbie—Organ Recital

**Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 East Fulton Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Celebration of Music Concert Series

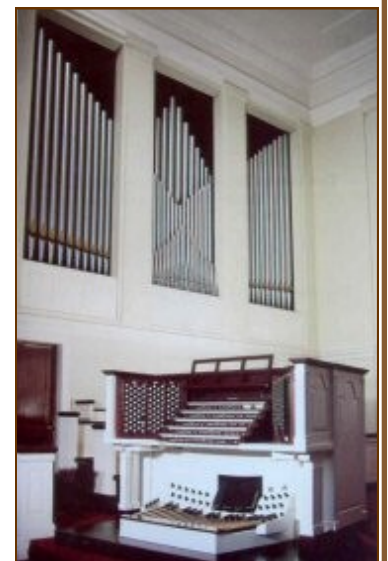
Dr. Kibbie is Chair of the Organ Department and University Organist at the University of Michigan. He also maintains a full schedule of concert, recording, and festival engagements throughout North America and Europe, including appearances at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, Royal Festival Hall in London, Dvořák Hall in Prague, and Lincoln Center in New York. He also is significant to Trinity as he was one of the designers of the Letourneau organ and also played the dedication recital of the instrument on May 3, 1992.



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.

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.

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.



OREGON BACH FESTIVAL ORGAN INSTITUTE



June 20 - June 25, 2022

Led by Grammy Award-winning organist

Paul Jacobs

Daily master classes with special guests

Seminars on music theory, history, and organ design

All day tour of Portland area organs

Recital performance in the Festival

Free tuition, room and board for Institute participants

Participant auditions due by March 15, 2022

Auditors can enroll through June 1

For more information visit

oregonbachfestival.com/organ-institute

Applications are now open for the Organ Institute at the Oregon Bach Festival. Now in its ninth season, **the Organ Institute 2022 will run from June 20-June 25 in Eugene, Oregon**

Deadline for auditions is Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Auditors can enroll until June 1.

The OBF Organ Institute, **directed by organist Paul Jacobs**, offers organists the opportunity to immerse themselves in the masterworks of organ repertoire, and to explore technique and interpretation through specialized seminars, master classes, and performance.

Contributions from generous funders provide these talented musicians **tuition-free access** to the six-day course of masterclasses and performances, with **no cost for lodging**.

More information, including audition requirements, can be found on our [website](http://obforgan@uoregon.edu). Contact us with any questions at obforgan@uoregon.edu.