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Grand Rapids AGO  
2021-2022**

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# THE CIPHER

September 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are excited to begin a new season celebrating the organ and live music. You will notice in the programming that there are many concerts. This is intentional, as we have all missed enjoying live music. Most programs are on Mondays at 7pm, followed by a reception. We look forward to seeing everyone at Mayflower Congregational Church on Monday, September 19 at 7pm. Performers are Eric Strand (Director of Music and the Arts at First United Methodist Church), Chan Gyu Jang (Director of Worship and Music at Seymour Christian Reformed Church and a Resource Development Specialist at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship), Rhonda Edginton (Organist and Music Director at Hope Church and Organ Instructor at Calvin University), Elizabeth West (assistant organist at La Grave Church and staff accompanist at Hope College), Carol McNally (Associate Director of Music and the Arts at First United Methodist Church) and Julia Brown (Director of Music and Organist at Mayflower Congregational Church). Specifications of the 5-manual Tellers/Lauck organ can be found on our website.

Please take a moment to look at all the other programs planned for the year and write the dates in your calendar so you're sure to attend. There's quite a variety, from a young organists' recital to a lecture-recital on Jewish Music Through the Ages. We're thrilled to bring Nathan Laube and Nicole Keller back to Grand Rapids, and to feature our very own Helen Hofmeister in a carillon recital. Most of all we look forward to seeing and connecting with all of you.



This year we host both the Rotman and the AGO/Quimby competitions. Please see descriptions below and encourage young organists to prepare and apply.

We are planning to print a chapter directory this fall and would like it to be as accurate as possible. If your membership has lapsed, or if you know someone who should be a member, now is the time to renew and to join. Our chapter is covering membership costs for young organists, so anyone under 30 can join for FREE.

## *Julia and Carol*

### **2022-2023 Programs**

**Monday, September 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Member Recital**

Mayflower Congregational Church  
2345 Robinson Road, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

We start the year with the joy of live music. A few local organists have been asked to prepare “music new to you” on the beautiful Tellers/Lauck organ. A reception will follow in the atrium

Performers for this program are Eric Strand (Director of Music and the Arts at First United Methodist Church), Chan Gyu Jang (Director of Worship and Music at Seymour Christian Reformed Church and a Resource Development Specialist at Calvin Institute of Christian Worship), Rhonda Edgington (Organist and Music Director at Hope Church and Organ Instructor at Calvin University), Elizabeth West (Assistant Organist at La Grave Church and staff accompanist at Hope College), Carol McNally (Associate Director of Music and the Arts at First United Methodist Church) and Julia Brown (Director of Music and Organist at Mayflower Congregational Church).



**October 17, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**AGOYO Recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

47 Jefferson Avenue SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Six young performers will dazzle us with their technique and artistry.

**December 31, 2022, 7:30pm**

**New Year's Eve Concert with Adam J. Brakel at Central Reformed Church**

Central Reformed Church

10 College Avenue NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Adam Brakel Director of Music of St. James Cathedral and the Diocese of Orlando, Florida.

Hailed as “an absolute organ prodigy” by National Public Radio and “one of the most talented organists in the world” by the Chicago Tribune, concert organist Adam J. Brakel is a preeminent artist “with the technique and virtuosity that most concert pianists could only dream of.” (NPR) Adam’s celebrated performances span the globe—from coast to coast in the United States to across Europe and Asia. His expansive repertoire includes the entire spectrum of styles featuring the complete organ works of Bach, Bruhns, Buxtehude, Couperin, Liszt, de Grigny, Franck, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Duruflé.



**January 22, 2023, 4:00 p.m.**

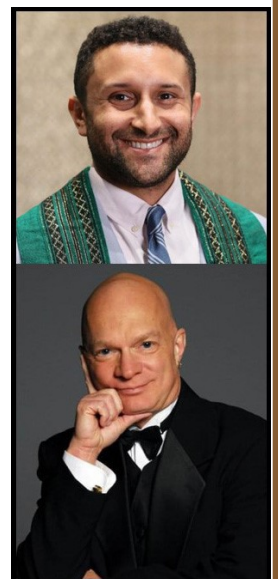
**Jewish Music Through the Ages**

Temple Emanuel

1710 Fulton Avenue NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cantor David Fair, Shir Shalom Choir and pianist Philip Pletcher at Temple Emanuel.



Cantor David Fair joined Temple Emanuel in 2021. A native of Baltimore, Maryland, he earned a B.A. in Theater and a minor in Music from the University of Maryland College Park. He received a Professional Studies Diploma and an Artist Diploma from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He received a Master of Sacred Music degree from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 2020, where he wrote his thesis on the topic, “Tsiporah’s Children: The Music and Lived Experiences of Black Jewish Americans.” He was ordained in 2021.

Before coming to Grand Rapids, Cantor Fair served as the Cantorial Intern at Temple Beth Israel in York, PA; Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST) in New York City; and Washington Hebrew Congregation in Washington, DC.

### **March 13 – Quimby and Rotman Competitions**

Location TBD

The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was founded in 2013 by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother and is an annual competition. Eligibility – A competitor must be 24 years of age or under 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)

For more information visit our website at [grago.org/competitions/](https://grago.org/competitions/)



AGO/Quimby is for more advanced young organists. The purpose of this competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, to develop service playing skills, and to receive recognition for their achievements. These competitions begin at the chapter level and conclude at the seven regional conventions. The winner of each regional competition will be invited to perform as a Rising Star at the 2024 National Convention in San Francisco, Calif. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

For eligibility, repertoire and competition rules please visit <https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Rules-2023-AGO-Quimby-competitions-May22r5.pdf>



**March 27, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**Workshop with Nicole Keller**

Location TBD

“Preparing for a Performance” (approaching performance in the broadest sense – concert, competition, worship service). How do we best prepare with the time available and the instrument we have?

Recently appointed to the faculty of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan. As a teacher, Ms. Keller strives to foster and model a commitment to excellence in performance, scholarship and self-growth as students deepen their love of music and their instrument. She is in demand as a concert artist, adjudicator, and clinician.



**April 30, 2023, 3:00 p.m.**

**Nathan Laube in Concert**

Basilica of St. Adalbert  
654 Davis Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Nathan Laube is a leading performer and pedagogue who is beloved around the world. His extensive recital career includes major venues spanning four continents. In April 2019, Mr. Laube launched the documentary-style radio program, “All the Stops,” on the WFMT Radio Network Chicago, consisting of four two-hour programs which feature many of the world’s most famous organs in Europe and the United States and explore their unique histories and repertoire. For more information, visit [www.wfmt.com/programs/all-the-stops/](http://www.wfmt.com/programs/all-the-stops/). In

October 2020, Mr. Laube joined the organ faculty at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart, Germany, succeeding his mentor, Ludger Lohmann, at his alma mater. There he takes part in one of most dynamic and international centers for organ study, situated in the heart of Europe. Prior to his move to Europe, he served on the organ faculty of the Eastman School of Music from 2013 to 2020.



**May 22, 2023, 7 p.m.**

**Carillon Recital with Helen Hofmeister, Carillonneur**

Beckering Family Carillon Tower

Fulton Street Campus of GVSU

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

The carillon recital will include selections of regional music, including music from England, Canada, and Appalachia. There will also be arrangements from the church, which will mainly be music based on chant. Helen Hofmeister has performed carillon recitals in 17 states as well as Belgium and the Netherlands.



## **Community Concerts**

Organist Rhonda Sider Edgington will perform works of award-winning American composer Bernard Wayne Sanders in a series of concerts in West Michigan in September.

**Friday, Sept 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in the chapel of Calvin University, where she will be joined by Calvin prof John Varineau on clarinet.

**Sunday, Sept 18 at 3 p.m.** at Hope Church in Holland, where she will be joined by Ellen Rizner on violin, and Jayne Gort on flute.

Sanders won the AGO Year of the Organ composition prize for his piece Ornament of Grace, which will be performed at both concerts. He recently retired from a musical career spent in Germany, most recently as

Director of Music at the church of St Gallus and Mary in Tuttlingen, (Southwest Germany), and will be in attendance for both concerts to offer commentary on his compositions. Saunders' organ works are published in the US by Concordian and Lorenz.

Edgington will also be performing in Sander's home state of Wisconsin the weekend previous, for the Northeast Wisconsin chapter of the AGO, in a concert in Appleton, WI



On **Saturday, Sept 17, 9:30 a.m.** Edgington and Sanders will present for the Holland AGO on the topic of his music for organ and instruments, and his easy, hymn-based service music. This will take place at 9:30am at Hope Church.

## CELEBRATION OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES: "Majestic Brass"

Sunday, September 18, 2022, 3:00 pm

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

The Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra brass octet "Majestic Brass" is joined by Trinity Lutheran Church organist Dr. Darlene Kuperus for this dazzling performance.

The concert features repertoire for brass ensemble as well as the combined forces of the pipe organ, brass and timpani.

Come and enjoy music composed by Gabrielli, Handel, Brahms, Telemann, Faure, Bach and Biebl. The concert closes with an arrangement of the poignant and powerful "Symphony No. 3 in C Minor (Organ)" by Camille Saint-Saens. This beloved work has been heard in several major film scores and was originally written for full orchestra and pipe organ. This arrangement for brass octet, timpani and pipe organ was created by a member of the Majestic Brass and will be a powerful ending to an exquisite program!



Dr. Darlene Kuperus

*Tickets are not needed for the concert.*





**Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

Basilica of St. Adalbert  
654 Davis Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Peter Kurdzeil, Organist**

The restoration of The Joseph A. Westdorp Basilica Centennial Memorial Organ is complete!

A little over a year ago on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the organ failed during the 11:00am mass. Upon review of a full assessment of the organ, the rector gave the approval to proceed with a full restoration. A major component of the restoration is the new console built by Goulding and Wood of Indianapolis. The organ will be rededicated to the glory of God during the 11:00am mass on Sunday, September 25. Basilica Organist Peter Kurdziel will play the inaugural recital on Tuesday evening, October 4, at 7:00pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!





**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 2022**

- October 11 -Eight Hands on Two Pianos  
Phyllis Miner, Robert Edwards, Bryan Uecker, Steve Thieleman  
October 18 - Jonathan Tuuk, organ  
October 25 - Roger MacNaughton with Jon Montgomery and Charlie Hoats  
November 1 - Karen Albert, mezzo-soprano and Grace VanHoven, soprano  
November 8 - Dr. Christopher Dekker, organ  
November 15 - Rhonda Edgington, organ and Carolyn Koebel, percussion  
November 22 - The River Rogues Jazz Band  
November 29 - Grand Rapids Trombone Quartet  
December 6 - 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.