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Grand Rapids AGO
2021-2022**

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THE CIPHER

November 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On October 17 we were treated to a Young Organists program at Westminster Presbyterian, where the performers explored the tonal palette of the 58 rank Aeolian-Skinner Opus 965. What a wealth of talent we have in our region! Thank you performers, for an inspiring evening; Matthew Jakubisin, for organizing; and Helen Hofmeister for hosting.



Our next meeting is Monday, November 14 at 7pm. Larry Biser has organized a visit to two churches in East Grand Rapids. We begin at Grace Episcopal Church, which houses the [1981 Noack Op. 94](#) with 56 ranks over 3 manuals and pedal. Our host will be Mary Baas. From there we will move to East Congregational Church to see their two organs: the [61-rank Schantz/Lauck](#) in the sanctuary and the smaller organ in their chapel. Our host will be Jameson Thompson. I believe there will be some “bench time” on each instrument, so bring shoes and music if you would like to take these for a spin. Specifications and details of these instruments can be found on our website.

Whether you will become reacquainted with these instruments, or will be seeing them for the first time, we look forward to spending a Monday evening with you.

Julia and Carol



2022-2023 Programs

November 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

East Grand Rapids Church Visit

Grace Episcopal Church
1815 Hall St. SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506

East Congregational Church
1005 Giddings St. SE
Grand Rapids. MI 49506

We will visit the [Noack](#) organ at Grace Episcopal Church, hosted by member Mary Baas and two organs at [East Congregational Church](#), with Jameson Thompson hosting.



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

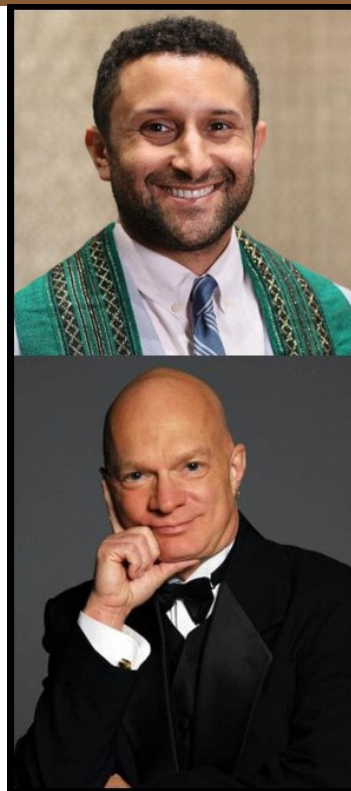
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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.

Philip Pletcher is a West Michigan pianist, teacher, conductor, actor, composer, arranger and singer who began picking out his favorite tunes on the piano at the age of four. His career has taken him throughout the United States and Canada. Phil operates a private piano studio, and actively performs both as a soloist and as a collaborative pianist.



March 13, 2022, 7:00pm

Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition

Basilica of St. Adalbert

654 Davis Ave. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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 (2023) 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

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

Workshop with Nicole Keller

Calvin University
Covenant Fine Arts Center
1795 Knollcrest Circle
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

“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/. 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 15, 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

November 6, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Organ Recital by David Hurd

Grace Episcopal Church

555 Michigan Avenue

Holland, MI 49423

David Hurd is widely recognized as one of the foremost church musicians and concert organists in the United States, with a long list of honors and achievements, and immeasurable expertise in organ performance, improvisation, and composition. For 39 years David Hurd was on the faculty of The General Theological Seminary in New York City, as Director of Chapel Music, Organist, and Professor of Church Music. He is the composer of dozens of hymns, choral works, settings of the liturgy, and organ works published by a number of major houses. His music appears in hymnals and choir libraries in churches of nearly all religious denominations. In 2010 he became the fifteenth recipient of The American Guild of Organists' Distinguished Composer award. Dr. Hurd is now Organist/Choirmaster of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City.



November 11, 7:00 p.m.

Organ Recital—Nicholas Quardokus

St. Augustine Cathedral

542 W. Michigan Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The Sacred Music at the Cathedral concert series continues on Friday, 11 November, at 7pm with an organ recital by Nicholas Quardokus on the Cathedral's magnificent Nichols and Simpson organ. Nick was the winner of the AGO Great Lakes Region Regional Convention competition held in Kalamazoo in summer of 2013. After graduate school at Yale, he was the Assistant organist at St. Thomas Church, 5th Ave., NYC, for two years and is now the Canon for Music at Grace Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Charleston, SC. This will be an exciting and memorable concert you won't want to miss!



Don't forget to renew your membership!

It has come to our attention that several members have not renewed their membership. It's a quick and easy process online through AGO National's website <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/> you'll need your membership number to login. We can help if needed – just let us know. We are planning to print a chapter directory this fall, and would like it to be as accurate as possible. By renewing now, you will help us with the project. Our chapter is covering membership costs for young organists, so anyone under 30 can join for FREE.



It's not too early to start planning for the **2023 Regional Convention!** Many of us planned and participated in the Regional Convention we hosted here in Grand Rapids in 2019, so you know how much work it is, how much money and commitment it takes, and how fulfilling it is.

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

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.