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Grand Rapids AGO
2021-2022**

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THE CIPHER

January 2023

Dear friends and colleagues,

Happy New Year to all! We hope you have recovered from the busy Advent/Christmas season and winter storms.

We have some exciting programs lined up, and we look forward to seeing you.

On Sunday, January 22 at 4pm we meet at Temple Emanuel for an exquisite program titled "Jewish Music Throughout the Ages", featuring Cantor David Fair, pianist Philip Pletcher and two choirs: Shir Shalom Choir and Grand Rapids Women's Chorus. This will be in a lecture/recital format and cover Jewish music from early chant to the 21st century. Cantor David Fair is a wonderful musician, engaging speaker and incredibly knowledgeable on the subject. This is a program with broad appeal, so help us publicize it, and bring a friend.

Do you know any organists 24 or younger? Competitions are a great way to focus on a deadline, prepare new repertoire, dedicate more time to practicing, and meet other young people with similar interests. Cash prizes and an opportunity to play in the grand space of the Basilica are also good incentives. Please encourage your students and any young organist to apply for this year's Rotman Competition. Application deadline is February 15, and the competition is March 13. Any resident of Kent County or adjacent counties (Ottawa, Muskegon, Newaygo, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry, or Allegan Counties) is eligible. More details can be found on our website <https://grago.org/competitions/>. You might not be eligible to compete, but you are definitely eligible to volunteer! We will need room monitors during practice sessions and on the day of the competition. Please let us know if you can help.



Julia and Carol

Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Central Reformed Church | Saturday, December 31, 2022 | 7:30 p.m, Adam J. Brakel, Organist

This concert was cosponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Central Reformed Church.

It isn't often one has New Year's Eve fireworks disseminate from the organ console, but this is exactly what Brakel created this past New Year's Eve! The Chancel and gallery organs were alive with cascading notes that shot from the pipes like tongues of Pentecostal fire. While all the recital was filled with musicality and excitement



for the entire concert, the Bonnet and the final piece by Demessieux were a real blast of musical energy and line, the organ responding to Brakel's every wish. His recital program was varied and well-paced and included the following: *Variations de Concert Op. 1* - Joseph Bonn;; *Toccata Settima* - Michelangelo Rossi; *Adagio from Organ Sonata in E minor* - Herbert Nanney; *Christmas* - Gaston Dethier; *Toccata on Thou Art the Rock* - Henri Mulet; *Prière Op. 20* - César Franck; *Trio Sonata No. 2 in C minor BWV 526 (Vivace, Largo, Allegro)* - Johann Sebastian Bach; *Three Etudes (Tierces, Sixtes, Octaves)* - Jeanne Demessieux. *Auld Lang Syne*, Robert Burns; (with those in attendance singing) closed the program and included an interesting and colorful introduction, accompaniment and interlude between the verses.

It was a delightful and grand way to begin 2023!

Larry Biser

2022-2023 Programs

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

Jewish Music Through the Ages

Temple Emanuel

1710 Fulton Avenue NE

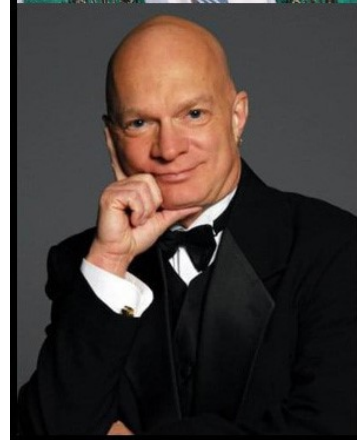
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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.



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.



The American Guild of Organists and Temple Emanuel
have joined together to present

JEWISH MUSIC *THROUGHOUT THE AGES*

A LECTURE RECITAL ON JEWISH MUSIC FROM THE DAYS
OF GREGORIAN CHANT THROUGH THE 21ST CENTURY

Cantor David Fair, tenor
Philip Pletcher, piano
Shir Shalom Choir
Grand Rapids Women's Chorus,
conducted by Lori Tennenhouse

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND 4:00PM

Temple Emanuel

1715 Fulton Street E
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

For more information, please call
(616) 459-5976 or email info@grtemple.org



The Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
is pleased to announce the seventh annual



ANNAMAE ROTMAN
**Young Organist
Competition**



7:00PM
Monday, March 13TH

Basilica of Saint Adalbert
654 Davis Ave, NW · Grand Rapids, MI