



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

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THE CIPHER

February 2023

Dear friends and colleagues,

We met last week at Temple Emanuel, in a room almost filled to capacity, to enjoy a fascinating program on the history of Jewish music with Cantor David Fair. Organized as a lecture/recital, he walked us through the earliest cantilations and notation, through the 21st century.



In addition to music we learned about Jewish culture, history and language. David was joined by pianist Philip Pletcher, Shir Shalom choir and the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus, who sang the beautiful anthem "O, Love" by Elaine Hagenberg.

Looking forward, the Rotman Competition for young organists is just around the corner. Eligibility, forms and details are on our website; applications are due February 15 and the competition is March 13. We know the young organists are out there, so please encourage them to participate. You may contact Peter Kurdziel, music@basilicagr.org or Rebecca Snippe, rdh9@calvin.edu with any questions.

We are organizing a nominating committee, so if you would like to serve on the board or would like to submit a name or a slate of officers, now is the time to do so. We have found our time on the board to be inspiring, invigorating and fun. It has been a great way to get to know some colleagues and connect in meaningful ways. Won't you consider taking a turn in a leadership position?

Julia and Carol



2022-2023 Programs

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



PLEASE ENCOURAGE ENTRANTS FOR THIS COMPETITION

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.



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

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship



In conjunction with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship's Annual Worship Symposium, there are three events that might be of interest to organists, organ students, and beginning, or soon-to-be-organists.

1. Monday, Feb 6, from 5-7pm - Substitute Organist Boot Camp

We'll start out at Calvin Christian Reformed Church at 5, and move around 6 to Fuller Ave CRC. At both churches, we'll pretend we're arriving at this church as a substitute organist, and spend our time discovering and discussing pertinent issues such as: how to turn on the organ and navigate setting pistons, what sounds to use, what questions to ask the resident organist/ office staff, and we'll each try out this new organ, playing a hymn or easy piece. If you (or a student of yours) would like to attend, please contact Rhonda Edgington, so we know to expect you. rhondabse@gmail.com

2. Thurs, Feb 9 2:45-4pm - Calvin University Chapel

An Orchestra at your Fingertips: Organ possibilities in Worship

You need to register for the worship symposium to attend this workshop, which will focus on those who don't have as much experience with the organ, and ways to include it more in worship

3. Thurs Feb 9, 4:30pm - Calvin University Chapel

Vesper Service: Singing with the Organ through Holy Week and Easter

Using the Lift Up Your Voice Reformed Hymnal, this will be a hymn sing, from Palm Sunday through Easter, with Greg Alley, trumpet, and John Varineau, clarinet

[Register for Symposium](#)