



**The Executive Committee of  
Grand Rapids AGO  
2022-2023**

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Competitions

[Rhonda Edginton](#)  
Education Coordinator

[The Rev. Dr. John D. Witvliet](#)  
Chaplain

# THE CIPHER

May 2023

Dear friends and colleagues,

What an incredible program Nathan Laube delivered Sunday afternoon at the Basilica! Read more about it and see pictures in Larry Biser's write up.

Looking ahead, our final program of the 22/23 year is a carillon recital with Helen Hofmeister on Monday, May 15 at 7pm at the downtown GVSU campus. Please see the detailed description on the following page, including parking information.

Also in May, you will not want to miss an organ recital with Owen Tellinghuisen at Immanuel Lutheran on Monday, May 22 at 7pm (please see poster in this newsletter).

We have a slate of officers to bring forth for a vote. We thank our nominating committee, Barbara Dulmage and Rhonda Edginton, for their diligent work filling the following positions:

**2023/2024 GRAGO Board**

Officers:

Dean: Carol McNally

Sub-Dean: Matthew Jakubisin

Secretary: Alexis VanZalen

Treasurer/Membership: Chris Witte

Members at Large:

Jordan Malone

Larry Biser

Chan Gyu Jang

Barbara Dulmage

On May 15, after Helen's recital we will vote on the four officers put forth.

Membership Renewal: we encourage you to renew your membership before July 1, when dues will increase slightly. There is more information about the increase in this [article](#).

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming program.

*Julia and Carol*



## Grand Rapids Chapter, April Meeting

April 23, 2023

### The Basilica of St. Adalbert

We were privileged to have Nathan Laube as our guest recitalist for our April meeting at the Basilica of St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Basilica had recently rededicated the Joseph A. Westdorp Basilica Centennial Organ, built by the Wicks Organ Company in 1980 which in its latest incarnation has a console built by Gouling and Wood Pipe Organ Company in 2022. They also revoiced nine ranks of reeds.

The 72-rank organ was given a real proof test at the hands of Laube. His program included the Allegro from Symphony 6 of Widor, Alain's Variations on a theme of Clément Janequin and ending the first half of the program with the Prélude, Adagio et Choral varié sur le "Veni Creator" of Maurice Duruflé. The second half of the program brilliantly featured the solo voices of the organ with two transcriptions, which delighted the audience. The first was Gottfried H. Federlein's transcription of the Prelude in G minor by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Following that, Laube presented his own transcription of Liszt's Sonata in B minor. Laube intended to premiere this transcription at the Great Lake Regional Convention in 2019, but foot surgery didn't allow him to do so. It was worth the wait! While the original piano sonata is a tour de force for any pianist, Laube's transcription for organ presents vast opportunities for delightful solo stops and underpinning the harmonic structure with extended pedal notes. The newly reimagined reeds gave the work sparkle and wonderful variety. The Fanfare Trumpet was used to great advantage to cap intense sections. The organ is in the balcony and there was no screen in front to watch Laube play, which may be regrettable, but it did allow one to imagine how Mr. Laube was able to create such a plethora of color and shadings! The ending was hushed and still and very aptly showed the lush strings of the organ. At the conclusion of the piece with several seconds of silence, the audience rose to their feet clapping wildly.

What a spectacular evening of music in a beautiful space with generous acoustics, and a gifted artist at the console!

Larry Biser



*Peter Kurdziel and Nathan Laube*

## **2022-2023 Programs**

**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



Helen Hofmeister is a professional carillonneur and has performed carillon recitals in sixteen states as well as Belgium and the Netherlands, including International Festivals in Springfield, Illinois, and at the Bok Tower in Lake Wales, Florida. She represented the GCNA (Guild of Carillonneurs in North America) with a recital at the World Carillon Congress at St. Rombouts in Mechelen, Belgium, and has played GCNA Congress recitals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and at Clemson University in South Carolina. She currently serves as Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, a position she has held since 2006. The carillons at Grand Valley both consist of 48 hanging bells that are connected individually to a keyboard. The player sits in a small playing cabin directly underneath the bells. The bells do not swing. When the player depresses a key on the keyboard, the clapper moves and strikes the bell to produce the sound. The music for the program comes from several geographic regions of North America.

Free parking is available in the Seward or Winter lot on Fulton Street across from the tower on the Pew campus. There is limited seating, and you are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. The recital will be about 45

## **Organ Recital by Owen Tellinghuisen**

**Featuring works by J.S. Bach, Louis Vierne,  
William Grant Still, and Charles Tournemire**

**May 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Please stay for light refreshments following the program.



A member of the Grand Rapids chapter of the AGO when he was in middle school and high school, Owen now studies organ performance at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in the studio of Dr. Janette Fishell.

As a pianist, Owen received several awards from the Grand Rapids Musicians' League and Grand Rapids Piano Teachers' Forum, along with multiple state, regional, and national composition awards through the Federation of Music Clubs, including the Wilson Piano Composition Award in 2019. As an organist, he won the Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition in 2017. In May 2020, he received the Michael R. Edwards Graduating Senior Performance Award from the NFMC. He recently received the NFMC Student/Collegiate Award for organ.

Owen serves as an organ scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington, IN, but he continues to play for churches in Grand Rapids when he is home from school. You can find him on YouTube by searching *Owen Tellinghuisen – Organist*.



**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH****2700 FULTON STREET EAST****GRAND RAPIDS****SUNDAY, MAY 7, 3:30 P.M.****FREE ADMISSION**

HEARTS, HANDS, & VOICES will begin with J.S. Bach's well-known cantata, Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben (Heart and mouth and Deed and Life). Joined by a chamber orchestra, this cantata features two chorale movements set to the familiar tune of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring". Sounds not to miss include a dazzling high trumpet, equaled by brilliant string figurations, energetic oboe and the lush voices of Vox GR Artists.





## **GRAND RAPIDS CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS**

**DIRECTED BY  
MATTHEW OWENS**

## **WHERE SILENCE & MUSIC MEET**

**Silence is the most  
beautiful music ... next to singing!**

Music of Bairstow, Walton, Howells,  
Faure, Paulus, Stopford, Allain,  
Todd, Rutter, Goodall, and Wood

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 @ 3 pm**

**Free Admission**

**Basilica of St Adalbert**

654 Davis Ave NW, Grand Rapids 49504

The performance will be recorded for  
future viewing on our website

GRCMB's Associate Director of Music, Matthew Owens, returns from Belfast to lead the choir in it's concluding program of the year. We have titled this program "Where Silence and Music Meet." Taking advantage of the amazing acoustics of the Basilica, we have chosen some of the most beautiful acapella anthems of the English Cathedral repertoire. We open down front with William McKie's "We Wait for Thy Loving Kindness, O Lord." McKie was the Master of Music at Westminster Abbey in 1953 and led the music for Queen Elizabeth's coronation. The choir will also sing two unaccompanied anthems by American composer Stephen Paulus: "Pilgrim's Hymn" & "Hymn to the Eternal Flame." William Walton's "Set Me as a Seal" and Philip Stopford's "Ubi Caritas" are two other sublimely beautiful acapella works. New to the choir will be two works: the world premier of Richard Allain's setting of the collect "Lord We Pray Thee that Thy Grace" and Edward Bairstow's challenging "I Sat Down Under His Shadow." More offerings of Rutter, Goodall and Todd will be sung before moving to the back balcony to conclude the concert with three pieces with organ accompaniment: Howells' "Like as the Hart" Faure's "Cantique de Jean Racine" and concluding our year with Charles Wood's dazzling "O Thou, the Central Orb."

All concerts are offered free of charge with a free-will offering taken.

No tickets are necessary. Arrive early for best seating