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Grand Rapids AGO
2023-2024**

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THE CIPHER

December 2023



*As you journey through the Advent
and Christmas seasons*

*May you find the wonder of a child
And share it with those you meet.*

Merry Christmas

Your GRAGO Board:

*Carol McNally
Matt Jakubisin
Alexis VanZalen
Chris Witte
Larry Biser
Barbara Dulmage
Chan Gyu Jang
Jordan Malone*

Recap of November Program

Monday, November 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
First (Park) Congregational Church



The Grand Rapids Chapter was pleased to present our Young Organists in recital at Park Congregational Church on its 4 manual, 80 rank Muller Organ Company instrument. Surely, it was a delight for our young players to examine and choose from the great variety of solo stops and exciting reeds and choruses. Our young organists were recent graduates of local colleges, are still in college, and one, who was a member of the Summer Organ Encounter, begun by our member, Bob Houskamp, 10 years ago. The program began with Helen Drost playing *Christ Lag in Todesbanden*, BWV 625 by J.S. Bach, the Arabesque of Vierne from *24 Pieces en Style libre*, Op. 31, and the Koraal of Peeters from *Suite Modale*, Op.

43. Maria Boot, the student from the Summer Organ Encounter, played *Berceuse* from *24 Pieces en Style libre*, Op. 31 and *Variations IV and V of the Robert Hobby Variations on "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues"*. Olivia Amting presented Dupre's Choral Fugue on *Vor deinen Thron tret' ich, and Christus, der uns selig macht* from *79 Chorales*, Op. 28, concluding with the *Prelude and Fugue in g minor*, BWV 558, attributed to J. S. Bach. Jordan Malone played Caccini's *Ave Maria*, arranged by John Ross, followed by *Requiem Aeternam* by Paul Fey. *Cortege et Litanie*, Op 19, No. 2 by Marcel Dupre was the final selection of the program, played by Stephen Rumler-McClusky. A dessert reception followed in the Park Church dining room. It was an evening of which any chapter of the AGO would be immensely proud to offer. Our gratitude and thanks to our young artists.

Larry Biser

Monthly programs for 2023 – 2024

Here is the lineup of AGO meetings for this season, 2023-2024. Our meetings take place at various venues throughout the area and are typically the third Monday evening of the month although there are exceptions.

Saturday, December 31, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Concert

**Central Reformed Church
10 College Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

There is no shortage of organists who make their instruments roar; and while her power was never in



question, Demers made the instrument sing.” (Peter Reed, Classical Source.com, England, 2016) With playing described as having “bracing virtuosity” (Chicago Classical Review) and being “fearless and extraordinary” (Amarillo-Globe News), Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe.

She has appeared in recital throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada, including at the Cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg (Germany); the ElbPhilharmonie (Hamburg); the Royal Festival Hall, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey (London); City Hall (Stockholm); the Royal Opera House of Muscat (Oman); the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing, China); Victoria Hall (Singapore); Melbourne Town Hall (Australia); Auckland Town Hall (New Zealand); Disney Hall (Los Angeles), Davies Hall (San Francisco), the Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), the Kimmel Center, and the Wanamaker Organ at Macy’s (Philadelphia); and the Maison Symphonique (Montréal).

Dr. Demers is in continual high demand by her colleagues as witnessed by performances for numerous regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society. She has released multiple CD recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels. Her latest CD, recorded at Chicago’s Rockefeller Chapel, was released in January 2020, and includes works of Reger, Laurin, Dupré, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Macmillan.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

You may download and print an 11 x 17 poster for this event to encourage others to attend.

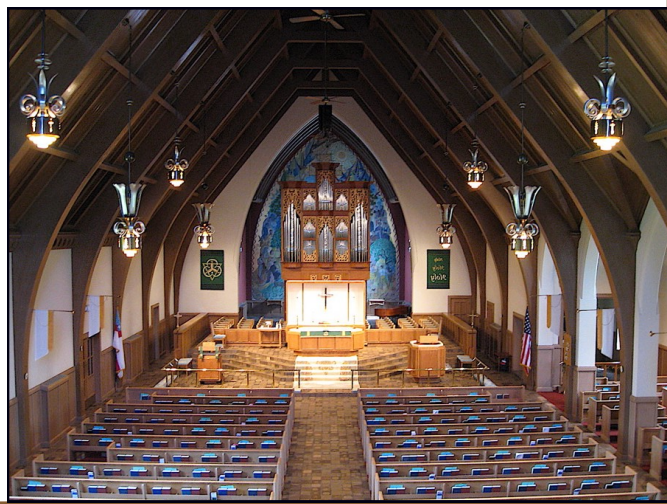
[POSTER](#)

Sunday, January 22, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Member Recital

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

Members of the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists including David Bading, Julia Brown, Gregory Crowell, Stephen Rumler-McClusky, Eric Strand and Alexis VanZalen present a program featuring a variety of music from the Baroque period.



Monday, February 19, 2024**Dinner – 6:00 p.m.****Program – 7:00 p.m.****The Organ Music of Larry Visser****LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church****107 LaGrave Avenue SE****Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Dr. Larry Visser, Minister of Music at LaGrave Avenue Christian Re-

formed Church and long-time member of the American Guild of Organists, presents a program of his organ compositions.

Larry Visser's musical career combines a church position, performing, and composing. He has been Minister of Music and Organist at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church in downtown, Grand Rapids, Michigan since 1999. In this role, he plays the organ for a majority of services, accompanies choirs, and oversees the administration of the church's extensive music ministry. Larry has produced several recordings during his tenure at the church—two solo organ discs and three additional recordings, each dedicated to a specific season of the liturgical church year—that feature the church's vocal and handbell choirs and instrumentalists.

Larry's formal education took place at Calvin College (BA, 1989, Music History, Theory, and Composition) and the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance (MM, 1991, Church Music and Organ; DMA, 1995, Organ Performance). Upon graduating from Calvin College, Larry was awarded the highest honor given by the Music Department, the Anna Bruinsma Award. While a student at the U of M, Larry served as a graduate student teaching assistant, took harpsichord lessons, and participated in the world's most prestigious organ competition, the Grand Prix de Chartres in Paris and Chartres, France, at which he was awarded a finalist medal. His organ teachers were Dr. John Hamersma and Dr. James Kibbie. From 2003–2010, Larry served as an adjunct faculty member at Calvin College, teaching organ and studio classes.

Larry has been a published composer of organ and choral music since the mid 1990s. His organ music is published by Leupold Editions (a division of The Leupold Foundation) and MorningStar Music Publishers, and his choral music is represented in the GIA Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Music Series. His anthem "Peace I Give to You" has been sung by choirs around the globe.

During a 2014 sabbatical, Larry completed a collection of 200 descants for hymns in the 2013 hymnal "Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs." Titled "Praise God in the Heights: Descants by Larry Visser," the collection was published by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. In 2019, he was the recipient of two-first prize awards in hymn tune competitions sponsored by the Eastman School of



Music (the Utech Hymn Tune Competition) and the St. Joseph's Mercy School in Navan, Ireland. Larry holds memberships in the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Hymn Society in North America and Canada.

Monday, April 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

2700 Fulton Street East

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competitions

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 grago.org/competitions/



Sunday, May 5, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

227 Fulton Street East

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Aaron Tan Organ Recital

Organist Aaron Tan will present a recital in celebration of the music ministry of Richard DeVinney at First United Methodist Church. The recital will be at the conclusion of the 2024 Celebration of the Arts which was founded by him and his wife, Marion, 50 years ago.

Concert organist Aaron Tan is a leading young artist in North America. In October 2021 he was awarded First Prize at the 2021 Canadian International Organ Competition as well as several additional awards for performances of specific works at the competition (The Sir Ernest MacMillan Award for Canadian competitors, the award for best performance of a work by Marcel Dupré, and best performance of a work by a Canadian composer). Originally from the Philippines and Canada, he is an organist and pianist who enjoys multi-faceted careers as a musician and a materials scientist.

Aaron's primary musical tutelage has been with John Tuttle, David Palmer, Joel Hastings, Martin Jean, and David Higgs. His musical upbringing started on the piano and later added the violin and organ. He received his Associ-



ate (ARCT) diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada at the age of twelve and went on to earn his Licentiate (LTCL) and Fellowship (FTCL) diplomas in Piano Performance from Trinity College of Music, London, England, at 13 and 15 years of age, respectively. When he was 18, he also completed his ARCT diploma in violin performance.

In 2004, under the auspices of the Barwell Scholarship (awarded to pianists interested in learning the organ), he began organ studies with John Tuttle while concurrently entering as a freshman in Engineering Science at the University of Toronto. Since then, he has gone on to complete both Associate (ARCCO) and Fellowship (FRCCO) diplomas in organ from the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO). In addition, he has also won numerous noteworthy competitions and scholarships including First Prize at the American Guild of Organists 2018 National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance, the Toronto RCCO Young Organists Competition, the Osborne Organ Competition of the Summer Institute of Church Music (Ontario), the RCCO's National Organ Playing Competition, the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians, the Lilian Forsyth Scholarship, the 2012 Poland International Piano Festival Competition, the West Chester University Organ Competition, the Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition, and the Sursa American Organ Competition.

Having recently received both MM and MMA degrees in organ from Yale University, Aaron is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester New York. Aaron also holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan and worked there as a postdoctoral researcher in the University's Laboratory for Complex Materials and Thin Films Research, studying the dielectric and thermal properties of polymer thin films.

Aaron has served as Organ Scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit, Michigan, Artist in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, Assistant Organist at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Organ Scholar at the Church of the Resurrection, New York City, and currently serves as Director of Music at St. Alban's Catholic Church in Rochester New York.



Lead Me to See Him

Featuring the works of Wilcox, Todd & Rutter

December 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church





WILL LIVERMAN

RECITAL CONCERT

WITH THE GRAND RAPIDS
CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS

ANDY LARSON
MEMORIAL CONCERT SERIES



MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2345 ROBINSON ROAD
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5TH @ 7 PM

Will Liverman in a Recital Concert with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

Join us for an evening of
Art Songs, Spirituals and Carols

Grammy Award-winning baritone Will Liverman is the 2022 recipient of the Metropolitan Opera's 2022 Beverly Sill Artist Award.

"Nothing short of extraordinary" "Mic-drop fabulous-good" (Opera News)

Called "A voice for this historic moment" (Washington Post)

"A beaming, high baritone that easily asserts " (LA Times)

- Liverman is an alumnus of the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago
- A Glimmerglass Festival Young Artist
- He holds degrees from the Julliard School (M.M.) and Wheaton College (B.M.)

The Inaugural presentation of the
Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys
Biennial *Andy Larson Memorial Concert Series*

TICKETS

THE EAST CHURCH, UCC
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & ARTS
PRESENTS

Handel's
**Messiah
Sing-along**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023
7:30 PM

BRING YOUR SCORE AND SING ALONG!
(SCORES AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

East Church
1005 Giddings Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

THE EAST CHURCH, UCC
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & ARTS
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS AT THE KEYS

WITH

*Thompson
& Wilkie*

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT OF SACRED CLASSICS AND
CONTEMPORARY FAVORITES

FEATURING
THE EAST CHURCH COMMUNITY CHOIR &
QUATTRO BELLE VOCI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023
7:00 PM

EAST CHURCH, UCC
1005 GIDDINGS AVE. SE,
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506



MUSIC AT MID-DAY

First (Park) Congregational Church

10 East Park Place NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

A Free Concert Series in the City

Concerts (12:15pm - 12:45pm) are free to all.

Announcing Music at Midday 2023-2024

Fall 2023

October 10 - Dr. Gregory Crowell, Harpsichord,

October 17 - Dr. Chris Dekker, Organ

October 24 - Grand Rapids Guitar Duo

October 31 - Roger MacNaughton with

Charlie Hoats, and Steve Anzivino

November 7 - Dr. Julia Brown, Organ

November 14 - Robert Edwards, Piano

November 21 - Eric Strand, Organ

November 28 - River Rogues

December 5 - Caledonia Choralaires

Spring 2024

March 12 - Dr. Larry Visser, Organ

March 19 - Karen Krummel, Cello; Phyllis Miner,
Piano

March 26 - No Concert Scheduled

April 2 - Mark Jackson, Baritone

April 9 - Phyllis Ann Miner and Robert Edwards,
Piano Duo

April 16 - Jonathan Tuuk, Organ

April 23 - Rhonda Edgington, Organ

April 30 - Bruce Robey and Friends

May 7 - Mary Rademacher

An optional \$7.00 lunch (11:15am - 1:15pm) is available
before or after the performance.

Soups, sandwiches, beverages, and cookies are served.

New Year's Eve Concert



Featuring the Music of Isabelle Demers at Central Reformed Church

Sunday, December 31, 2023 — 7:30 p.m.

Free Admission

Presenting the works of J.S. Bach, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Tchaikovsky, and more...

10 College Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616.456.1773
centralreformedchurch.org

Isabelle Demers is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC | www.concertartists.com
This concert is cosponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The Calvin Alumni Choir presents

Christe Lux Mundi

Sean Ivory, Conductor

Julia Brown, Accompanist

*Randy Van Wingerden,
Assistant Conductor*

Friday, December 8, 2023

7:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

225 Fulton Street E

Celebrate Christmas With Us!

No tickets required

Calvin  *Alumni Choir*

The Choral Society of Grand Rapids

Randall Wm. Burghart, Music Director
with chorus, soloists and orchestra in concert
Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Pre-concert talk at 5:30

Magnificat

by C.P.E. Bach
with music for the season by
Tchaikovsky, Vittoria and more

Trinity United Methodist Church
1100 Lake Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI
Admission is Free

a free-will offering will be accepted (\$15 suggested donation) [Donate here](#)

DONATE at ChoralSocietyGR.org
 [@ChoralSocietyGR](#)





Christmas Lessons and Carols - Conductor Scott Bosscher

- Friday, December 15th, 2023 @ 7:00 PM - Cathedral of St Andrew 215 Sheldon Blvd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- Saturday, December 16th, 2023 @ 7:00 PM - Cathedral of St Andrew 215 Sheldon Blvd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- Tuesday, December 19th, 2023 @ 7:00 PM - Cathedral of St Andrew 215 Sheldon Blvd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

No tickets required, free admission, a free-will offering will be taken.



Dec 19, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, USA

Weaving together the best of the season's music, Vox GR Choral Ensemble presents *VOXmas 2023*. From sacred to secular, historic to modern, and classical to folk, the choir will sing music from across the globe and tunes close to your heart. Come explore wonder, mystery, and joy with us through the intimate expressions of the human voice. You will be able to join in the fun, too, by singing some familiar carols.

Free admission



The Van Dyke Organ Dedication

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL

4p Sunday, 17 December

1916 Ridgwood Ave SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Nathan Grime, organist
Christina Roberts, organist
Our Savior Lutheran Children's Choirs
*performing the music of J.S. Bach, Hugo Distler,
Georg Böhm, Benedetto Marcello and others*

A little over a year ago the family of Henry Van Dyke spread the word through the Grand Rapids Chapter of the AGO that after Henry's death the pipe organ he built was in need of a new home. The Van Dyke's selected Our Savior Lutheran School as the new residence for this 4-rank instrument, and over the summer helped move and rebuild it with the assistance of Our Savior Lutheran's musicians, Kantor Christina Roberts and Nathan Grime.

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School has an active music program with a historic liturgical worship, a slate of instrumental teachers and choirs, a growing recital schedule, and a campaign for a Buzard pipe organ to serve the congregation. The Van Dyke organ now occupies the Music Studio where it serves as a unique educational tool for the classical Lutheran preschool through 8th grade.

Please join us at 4p Sunday, 17 December for a recital dedicating the Van Dyke Pipe Organ at Our Savior Lutheran School; 1916 Ridgewood Ave; Grand Rapids. The program will feature Advent works by J.S. Bach, Böhm, Distler, and Marcello played and sung by Our Savior Lutheran's organists and choirs.