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Grand Rapids AGO
2023-2024**

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THE CIPHER

April 2024

MUSINGS FROM OUR DEAN

As I write this it is Easter Monday. So let me wish you all a Happy Easter. I hope your "Alleluias" are still ringing loud and clear!

As we look to April, we anticipate our annual Young Organist Competition. The Annamae Rotman competition will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on April 15 beginning at 7 pm. This event was founded in 2013 by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother and is held annually by our chapter. I hope you will all come out to support our young artists!

Your Board has been working on producing a directory for our chapter. This has turned out to be more complex than one would think. (At least to attempt to do it legally in 2024.) In order for us to produce a directory we will need approval from each of you to release your contact information to the membership. The board will be sending out an email to the membership with questions to answer that will allow us to put your information in the directory. YOU MUST answer the email to be included in the directory.

Finally, we look forward to our season ending recital. This year we welcome organist Aaron Tan to Grand Rapids. His recital is on Sunday, May 5 at 3 pm at First United Methodist Church. The recital is dedicated to the memory of Richard DeVinney who served as Director of Music at First Methodist for many years. The recital is also part of Celebration of the Arts, an annual event held at First United Methodist Church and begun by Richard DeVinney and his wife, Marion. If you would like to view the art this year, the gallery hours can be found on the church's website: grfumc.org/cofa.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 15.

Carol McNally, Chapter Dean



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.

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

**Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition

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.

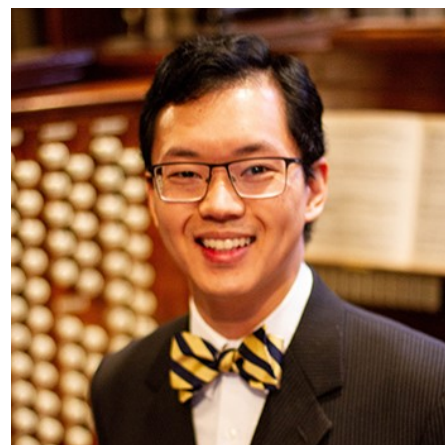
Concert organist Aaron Tan is a leading young artist in North America. In October 2021 he was awarded First Prize at the 2021 Canadian International Organ Competition as well as several additional awards for performances of specific works at the competition (The Sir Ernest MacMillan Award for Canadian 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 Associate (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.



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



ANNAMAE ROTMAN
**Young Organist
Competition**

Monday, April 15th

7:00pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI

Dear GRAGO Friends:

We want to let you know that our Summer Organ Encounter program for 2024 is under way! The website has been updated and we are printing all the handout and mailout material this week. We hope to get everything in the mail next week, with mailings to about 80 people.

This will be our 11th year for the program. Through last June we had 59 students take the classes, many of whom went on to college and to private lessons. Since last August we have had four students on scholarship, taking lessons twice per month from Jonathan Bading, Julia Brown, and Elizabeth West. Our goal is to support several students with scholarships each year.

The SOE program is fully supported by donors so the students have no expenses. In addition to the lessons, they keep the music we use for teaching for their own music libraries. Students are expected to spend reasonable practice time between lessons.

Please take the time to review our website, SOEGR.ORG, and spread the word! The Instructors for 2024 are named, and the class schedules are being assigned, for both Holland and Grand Rapids. And help us spread the word!

Bob Houskamp, Program Manager

Bobjoan6387@sbcglobal.net
(616) 481-8918



MUSIC AT MID-DAY First (Park) Congregational Church

Spring 2024

- April 9 - Karen Krummel, Cello; Robert Edwards, Piano
- April 16 - Leslie Van Becker, viola; Robert Byrens, piano
- 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.



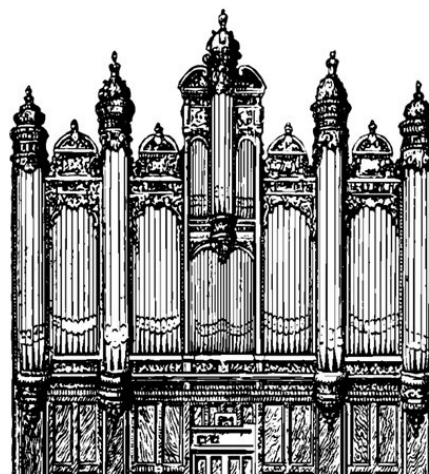
American Guild of Organists Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter

In Memoriam

A Members' Recital

In Loving Memory of Floyd Farmer

Sunday, April 28, 2024
3:00 PM



Central United Methodist Church
1011 Second Street — Muskegon, MI

*A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the
"Irene Kolkema Organ Scholarship Fund"*