



**The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2024-2025**

Officers

[Matthew Jakubisin](#), Dean

[Peter Kurdziel](#), Sub-Dean

[Chris Witte](#), Treasurer/Membership

[Alexis VanZalen](#), Secretary

Council Members at Large

[David Bading](#)

[Barbara Dulmage](#)

[Rob Hobgood](#)

[Chan Gyu Jang](#)

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Webmaster, CIPHER Editor

[Peter Kurdziel](#)
Competitions

[Rebecca Snippe](#)
Competitions

[Rhonda Edginton](#)
Education Coordinator

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

THE CIPHER

July 2024

Dear friends,

Happy July! It's a wonderful month of rest and relaxation that perhaps allows us a little extra practice time, too. For many of us, summer means transitions in our ministries and workplaces. We review the previous program year and prepare for the next, all while hopefully getting some vacation thrown into the mix.

During this time of year, our chapter also experiences a change in leadership. I am honored to serve you as Dean during this upcoming season and am pleased to introduce our 2024-2025 Board: Sub-Dean Peter Kurdziel, Treasurer Chris Witte, Secretary Alexis VanZalen, and Members at Large David Bading, Barbara Dulmage, Rob Hobgood, and Chan Gyu Jang.

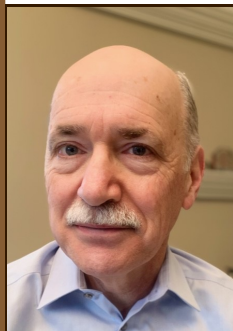
We are working hard to plan and finalize the program schedule, which will be shared with you in August. In the meantime, you can look forward to September's combined Installation Service with the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter (to be held in Muskegon), an October recital presented by James Kibbie at Mayflower Congregational Church (as a part of the "Mondays at Mayflower" series), the Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition in November, and the New Year's Eve Concert at Central Reformed Church.

I wish to express my gratitude to Carol McNally, who served as Chapter Dean last season and led a smooth transition of the board. Thank you as well to all our board members who have agreed to serve. And of course, many thanks to you - our members and friends - for your participation and support. I look forward to meeting and sharing great music with you during this year ahead. Please don't hesitate to drop a note to one of our board members with questions or feedback - or simply to say hello!

Peace,
Matthew Jakubisin, Chapter Dean



Meet the 2024-2025 GRAGO Board



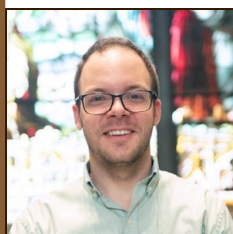
David Bading (Member at Large) began organ studies in high school and continued through an undergraduate degree in music. He later earned a Master of Music in music history at the University of Kansas, where he also pursued graduate organ study. As an adjunct to his career in software development, he served as a church organist and interim choir director in Virginia for more than 35 years. He also did service on the executive committee of the Northern Virginia chapter of the AGO. After retiring from his day job in 2021, David and his wife moved to Grand Rapids, where he enjoys seeing his grandchildren regularly and getting to know the many fine organs in the city.



Barbara Dulmage (Member at Large) has served churches of various denominations throughout her career, and also taught organ and courses in church music while Artist-in-Residence at Park College in Kansas City, Missouri. Most recently, she served as Director of Music Ministries for Second Congregational Church in Grand Rapids. Her education includes a MM from the University of Kansas, where her primary instructor was James Moeser. She completed a DMA with Delbert Diselhorst at the University of Iowa, where she also studied choral conducting with Don Moses. Barbara enjoys reading, writing, Sudoku, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, LEGOS, and her sweet little dog, Manny!



Originally from Raleigh, NC, **Rob Hobgood (Member at Large)** has received music degrees from Covenant College, Westminster Choir College and the University of Kansas. Additionally, Rob has studied choral conducting in Oxford, UK, and organ in Haarlem, The Netherlands. He also studied carillon at KU and received the Carillon Certification from the Guild of Carillonneurs in 2022. Prior to coming to Grand Rapids, Rob was the Interim Director of Choirs at Dordt University. He is currently the Director of Vocal and Handbell Choirs at LaGrave Avenue CRC.



Matthew Jakubisin (Dean) is Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Grand Rapids. He is originally from Cicero, IL and attended Saint John's University (Collegeville, MN), earning a BA and MA in liturgical music. Before beginning ministry at the Cathedral in 2019, Matthew was music minister at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe Woods, MI. He has served on the GRAGO board since 2020.



Chan Gyu Jang (Member at Large) is a Resource Development Specialist at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and the Director of Music at Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church.



Peter Kurdziel (Sub-Dean) has been the Director of Music at the Basilica of Saint Adalbert since August of 2010. He is the past dean of the Grand Rapids and Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapters of the American Guild of Organists. He has also been a guest organist with the West Michigan Symphony and the Holland Symphony Orchestras. Additionally, he has served on the executive boards of the Grand Rapids Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians and the West Michigan Symphony.



Alexis VanZalen (Secretary) began her organ studies during high school in her hometown of Holland, MI. She went on to complete a BM in organ performance at Lawrence University and an MM in early music at the Eastman School of Music. Dr. VanZalen also earned her PhD in Musicology from Eastman and specializes in 17th c. French organ music. Alexis currently serves as Program Coordinator at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and as Organ Scholar at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.



Chris Witte (Treasurer) grew up in Grand Rapids, attended Calvin College, and graduated with an accounting degree in 2012. He is a member of LaGrave Avenue CRC. Chris is a CPA and works locally as a senior tax manager for the public accounting firm Plante Moran. Chris enjoys the organ as a hobby. He learned to play while in college and has served as a volunteer worship planner and service organist for his previous church, as well as substituting for other churches on an occasional basis. Chris brings both financial acumen and passion for the organ to his role as Treasurer.





SUMMER READING SESSIONS

JOIN US IN...

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Cathedral of St. Andrew

215 Sheldon Blvd. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Tuesday, August 27 @ 7:00 PM (EST)

Register for **FREE** today at

www.giamusic.com/srs

GIA Summer Reading Session for Choir Directors, Cantors, and Accompanists

Tuesday August 27 at 7pm

Cathedral of Saint Andrew

215 Sheldon Blvd SE, Grand Rapids

Register at www.giamusic.com/srs

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