



THE CIPHER

September 2024

**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](#)

Members Ex-Officio

[Dennis Buteyn](#),
Webmaster, Cipher Editor

[Peter Kurdziel](#)
Competitions

[Rebecca Snippe](#)
Competitions

[Rhonda Edginton](#)
Education Coordinator

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

Dear friends,

Now that Labor Day has come and gone, it is time to dive back into the program and academic years. While it is easy to get caught up in seemingly endless tasks and meetings, perhaps we can all pause this September to reconnect with a fellow organist or two in town. Needless to say, your local AGO chapter is here to help you! For this purpose, I invite you to attend our first program of the season as a way to meet up with friends and colleagues.

On **Monday September 23**, we'll gather at First Congregational Church, Muskegon, for a meal and officer installation service with both the Grand Rapids and Muskegon/Lakeshore Chapters. Our evening will begin at 6pm with a meal creatively and deliciously provided by the award winning Fatty Lumpkins Sandwich Shack. **See details regarding meal on the next page.**

The service will follow at 7pm featuring a virtual greeting from Dr. Larry Sharp, AGO Regional Ambassador to the Great Lakes Region, prayer and address to members led by Pastor Tim VanderHaar of FCC, music led by organists Peter Kurdziel and Nicholas Palmer, and a congregational choral anthem sung by everyone in attendance (With a Voice of Singing).

For those driving from Grand Rapids and interested in carpooling, we will meet at 5pm in the parking lot of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1025 3 Mile Rd. NE) and depart shortly thereafter.

Lastly, while the chapters of West Michigan have collaborated over the years, this month's event marks the start of a "Year of Transition" for both the Grand Rapids and Muskegon/Lakeshore Chapters. Immediately following in this newsletter, please see the announcement from Eileen Hoogterp and Michael Match, regarding the Muskegon/Lakeshore Chapter's proposal to merge with Grand Rapids. The GRAGO Board has accepted their proposal and both boards are working together for a smooth transition. Shared programming, such as this September, is a first step. Much of the organizational and financial details will be worked on in early 2025.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding this development. We hope that this year of transition will only strengthen the community of organists in West Michigan. I hope to see you in a couple weeks in Muskegon!

Sincerely,
Matthew Jakubisin, Chapter Dean



Announcement of Merger, Summer 2024

The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter has polled its membership and has found that a merger between ours and the Grand Rapids Chapter is the only way forward at this time. The board of the GRAGO has graciously accepted our proposal. We at the MLAGO would like to make our 2024-25 season a "Year of Transition" into this one large chapter. At the end of the season (May 2025) we will complete 65 years as an independent Chapter, retire our name and be officially part of the Grand Rapids AGO. The national policies of the AGO allow the complete transfer of funds when chapters merge, so we are pleased that all our resources will remain here in Western Michigan. These funds will be used by GRAGO to support scholarships, programming, and live performances which we can all attend and appreciate. We are grateful to the board of GRAGO for their hospitality and dedication to this organization which we hold dear. As one of our final offerings, the MLAGO will be honored to host this year's Installation of Officers Ceremony, a joint event held in Muskegon at First Congregational Church, UCC on Monday, September 23, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Eileen Hoogterp and Dr. Michael Match
Co-Deans, Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO

Schedule of Programs 2024-2025

Monday, September 23, 2024

Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

Service – 7:00 p.m.

Service of Installation with Grand Rapids and Muskegon /Lakeshore Chapters

First Congregational Church

1201 Jefferson Street

Muskegon, MI 49441

Our first program is on September 24, 2024, at 6 p.m., at First Congregational Church in Muskegon. This is a time to reconnect with your friends and colleagues and share what will be happening in the programs of the churches around the area. Carpooling from Grand Rapids will be available. Please meet in the parking lot of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church at 5 p.m. (1025 3 Mile Rd. NE. Grand Rapids).

Meal provided by Fatty Lumpkins Sandwich Shack

The menu will include sandwiches with choice of (select 1): roast beef & horseradish cheese; chicken and dill havarti; or ham and swiss. Veggies will be on sandwiches and condiments on the side. Please request in your reservation if you would like vegan cheese or gluten free bread - these will be set aside and labeled. Lettuce wraps are also available. Side salad options will include: turkey waldorf garden/lettuce salad and creamy cucumber dill pasta salad. Beverages and dessert also included.

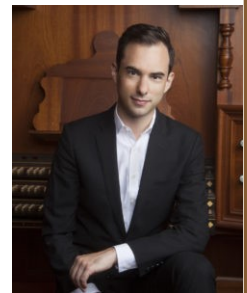
The meal is \$20 per person. Please **RSVP by September 16** to Chris Witte (chriswritte@gmail.com) to reserve a seat for dinner and include your sandwich choice or any dietary restrictions.

Monday, October 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
James Kibbie Organ Recital
Mayflower Congregational Church
2345 Robinson Rd. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Monday, November 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Annamae Rotman Young Organists Competition
First (Park) Congregational Church
10 East Park Place NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Sunday, December 31, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
New Year's Eve Concert
Central Reformed Church
10 College Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Christopher Houlihan, Organ

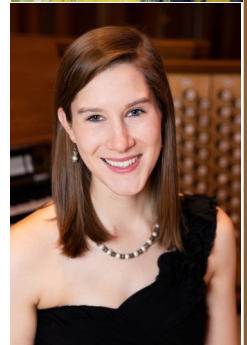
Sunday, January 19, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Member Recital
Calvin Christian Reformed Church
700 Ethel St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

February Program to be announced

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
508 Franklin Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Young Artist Recital: Sarah Simko



Friday, May 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church
107 LaGrave Avenue, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Caroline Robinson Organ Recital



September 14, 2024

An American in Paris

Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts
Hope College,
221 Columbia Ave.
Holland, MI 49423 United States



Concert Sponsor: In memory of Floyd Farmer. An American in Paris, opening concert of the 24-25 season, will be held Saturday, September 14, 2024, 7:30 p.m. Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts, Hope College, Johannes Müller Stosch, Music Director.

Organ virtuoso Christopher Houlihan will perform Barber's Toccata Festiva for Organ and Orchestra.

[Tickets](#) - \$29

PROGRAM

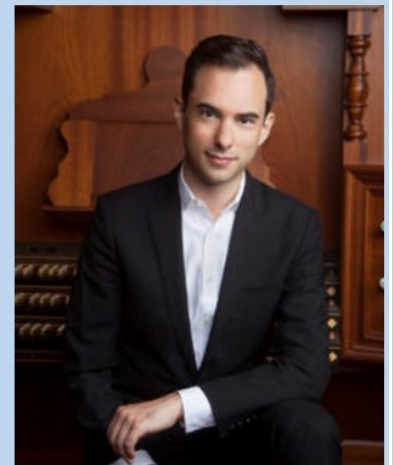
Idylle (US Premiere)
Joseph Marx (1882-1964)

Toccata Festiva for Organ and Orchestra, Op. 36
Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Christopher Houlihan, Organ

Dances in the Canebrakes
Florence Price (1887-1953)
Nimble Feet
Tropical Noon
Silk Hat and Walking Cane

An American in Paris
George Gershwin (1898-1937)



DONIA ORGAN RECITAL

TUESDAY, September 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

HOPE COLLEGE

Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts Concert Hall
221 Columbia Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

DAMIN SPRITZER



A native of Washington and Oregon, Dr. Damin Spritzer is Area Chair and Associate Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma and Artist-in-Residence for Cathedral Arts at Saint Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas.

She has performed in Israel, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Norway, France, England, Belgium, Iceland, and throughout the US.

She has released seven critically acclaimed CDs for Raven Recordings recorded in France, the United States, and England, and publishes an ongoing series of critical editions of the music of R.L. Becker.

Her Doctor of Musical Arts degree is from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, her MM in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and her BM in Organ Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio. Devoted to researching and performing unknown and underrepresented composers as well as music by women composers, she serves active roles with the Association of Anglican Musicians, the American Guild of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society, is a member of the Society of Women Organists and the American Theatre Organ Society, and a supporting member of Organ Media Foundation and Pipedreams.

Damin Spritzer is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

“PAEAN”: A Pair-o’-Docs Duo Recital

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church

107 LaGrave Ave. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Friday, September 27, 7:00 p.m.



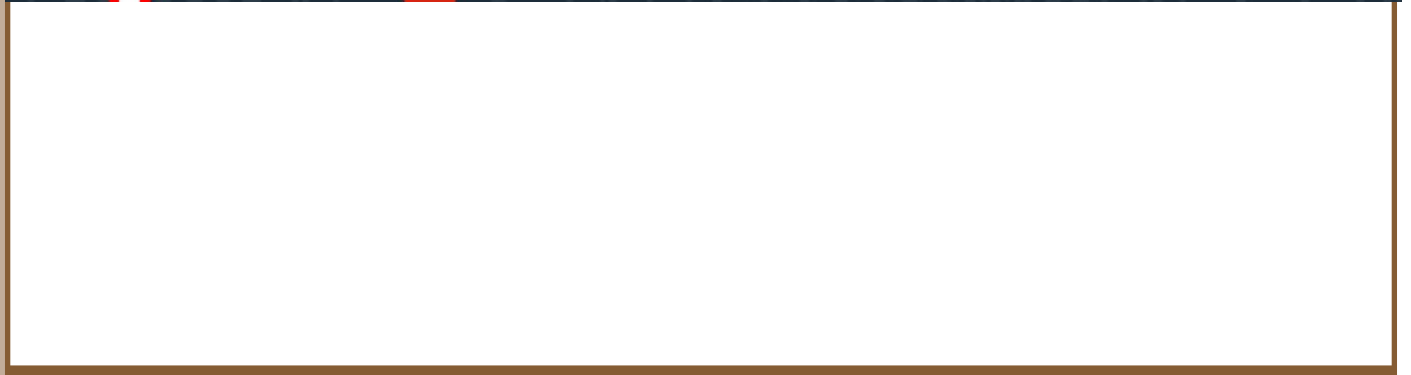
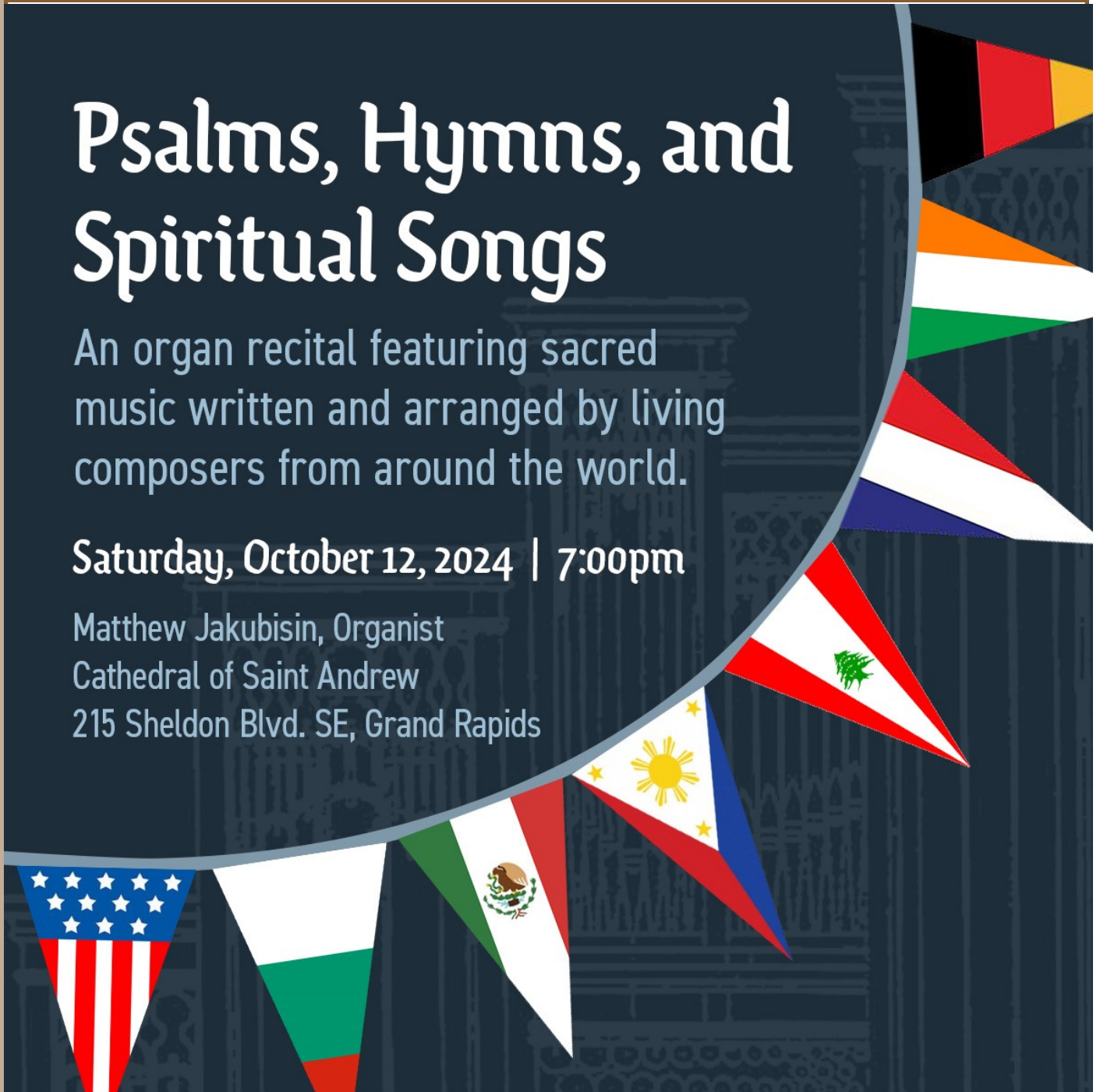
Don't know what "paeon" means? Come and find out as Drs. Rob Hobgood and Larry Visser present a recital of duet music using various combinations of the piano and organ on Friday, Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m. The recital features a variety of styles of music including classical favorites, modern music, and hymn arrangements – truly something for everyone. The recital runs concurrent with the congregation-wide *Imaginations* art exhibit. A post-recital reception will be held in the Multipurpose Room. Attendees can view the art exhibit in the Parlor both before and following the recital. Plan now to attend this entertaining and inspiring evening. It's sure to be double the fun!

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

An organ recital featuring sacred music written and arranged by living composers from around the world.

Saturday, October 12, 2024 | 7:00pm

Matthew Jakubisin, Organist
Cathedral of Saint Andrew
215 Sheldon Blvd. SE, Grand Rapids



FIRST (PARK) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
10 EAST PARK PLACE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

music at midday

concert schedule

FALL 2024

October 8

Rhonda Edgington, organ

October 15

Robert Edwards, classical piano

October 22

Dr. Chris Dekker, organ

October 29

Judy VanderWeg, cello
 Robert Byrens, piano

November 5

Julia Brown, organ

November 12

Roger MacNaughton, piano
 Steve Anzivino, bass
 Charlie Hoats, drums

November 19

River Rogues, dixieland band

November 26

Karen Albert, alto
 Schyler Claypool, soprano

December 3

Caledonia Choralaires
 Kara Stevens, conductor

a free community
 concert series
 on Tuesdays
 in downtown
 Grand Rapids

Fall 2024

October 8
 through
 December 3

All concerts begin
 at 12:15 and are
 free of charge.

Lunch is \$7.00 per person
 and is served from 11:15-1:15

10 East Park Place NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503
office@parkchurchgr.org
 616-459-3203

WWW.PARKCHURCHGR.ORG

