



GRAND RAPIDS

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THE CIPHER

December 2024

Dear friends,

Happy December! The holidays are upon us and we find ourselves running between rehearsals, services, and parties. While it can be exhausting, our work in December can be some of the most rewarding music ministry we do all year. To relax, I often return to my favorite music selections for Advent and Christmas - on Spotify, at the organ console, or on the home piano.

For this month's newsletter, I asked the board to share a few of their personal favorites for the season. I hope you appreciate this offering and find the time to enjoy the music that is near and dear to your heart during this month.

Choral:

- Advent "O" Carol by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange
- Comfort, Comfort Now My People - arr. David Cherwein
- Est ist ein Ros entsprungen by Hugo Distler
- Est ist ein Ros entsprungen by Jan Sandström
- Gesu Bambino - Pietro Yon
- Hor ch'e tempo di dormire - Tarquinio Merula
- In the Bleak Midwinter - Harold Darke
- Keep Your Lamps! - arr. André Thomas
- Lift Every Heart - Cary Ratcliff
- O Come, All Ye Faithful - arr. David Willcocks/John Ferguson
- O Magnum Mysterium - Tomás Luis de Victoria
- The Glory of the Father - Egil Hovland
- Veiled in Darkness, Judah Lay - Glen Rudolph
- What Child is This - Becky McGlade

Organ:

- Carillon on "Antioch" - Mary Beth Bennet
- Es ist ein Ros entsprungen - Johannes Brahms
- Greensleeves - Richard Purvis
- I Saw Three Ships - Richard Elliot
- Noël Grand jeu et duo - Louis-Claude Daquin
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Michael Burkhardt
- Rorate Caeli - Jeanne Demessieux
- The Quiet Center (piano collection) - Thomas Keesecker
- Twas in the Moon of Wintertime - Robert Powell
- Veni, Veni Emmanuel - Pamela Decker
- Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her - Johann Pachelbel

Wishing you all a holiday season filled with wonderful music! See you on New Year's Eve at the annual organ recital at Central Reformed!

Sincerely,
Matthew Jakubisin, Chapter Dean



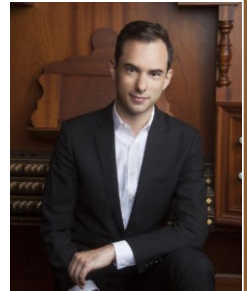
Schedule of Programs 2024-2025

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

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 7, 2025, 3:45 p.m.

Calvin Symposium on Worship

Calvin University Chapel
1835 Knollcrest Circle SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546



Sunday, March 9, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
508 Franklin Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417

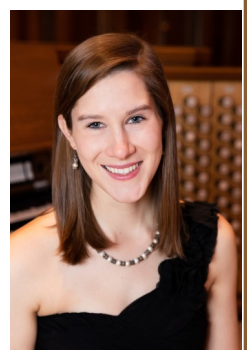
Young Artist Recital: Sarah Simko



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





Sunday, December 31, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Concert
Central Reformed Church

It has been a long-standing tradition for Central Reformed Church to present a New Year's Eve recital. For many of those years, GRAGO has cosponsored the event. This year's artist is Christopher Houlihan.

The organist **Christopher Houlihan** has established an international reputation as a "passionate and intelligently virtuoso musician" (*Gramophone*), hailed for his "glowing, miraculously life-affirming performances" (*Los Angeles Times*). Houlihan has performed at Disney Concert Hall with the principal brass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, presented by the Philadelphia Orchestra; and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., presented by the National Symphony Orchestra. *The Los Angeles Times* raved about his Disney Hall debut, proclaiming, "Houlihan is the next big organ talent." Highlights of Mr. Houlihan's 2019-20 season included performances of Joseph Jongen's monumental [Symphonie Concertante](#) with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (opening concert of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival) and the St. Ann's Festival Orchestra in Washington D.C.; solo recitals in St. Louis, Seattle, New York City, Eureka (CA), Rohnert Park (CA), and Birmingham (AL); and chamber performances as part of the Screendoor Summer Music Festival in Camden, Maine.

Houlihan's performances with orchestras in past seasons include Barber's *Toccata Festiva* with the Hartford Symphony (Edward Cumming, conductor), Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3 and Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the Columbus (GA) Symphony (George Del Gobbo, conductor), and the Organ Concerto by Robert Edward Smith with the Boston Chamber Orchestra (David Feltner, conductor).

Christopher Houlihan has appeared in recital at celebrated venues across North America and Europe including the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, Glasgow Cathedral in Scotland and San Francisco's Grace Cathedral and Davies Symphony Hall, as well as at numerous conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. In 2017 he was featured performer at the closing concert of the AGO Southeast Regional Convention at Jacoby Symphony Hall in Jacksonville, where he presented the world premiere of Hannah Lash's *Ludus* (written specifically for Houlihan). In 2014, Houlihan performed in a prime-time slot of WQXR's All-Day Bach Organ Marathon in New York City which was webcast live and seen by thousands. Houlihan's "Vierne 2012" tour attracted international attention and critical acclaim for his marathon performances of the six organ symphonies of Louis Vierne in six major North American cities. *The Los Angeles Times* called his performance there "a major surprise of the summer, a true revelation."

Building on the excitement and acclaim of "Vierne2012", in Christopher Houlihan's next recording on the Azica label features music by Vierne and César Franck. Recorded on the Church of the Ascension's Pascal Quoirin Organ, the album includes Vierne's Symphony No. 6 in B Major and Franck's *Grande Pièce Symphonique*. In 2017, Houlihan released *Christopher Houlihan plays Bach* (Azica). Recorded at Trinity College, the CD was praised as "playful, celebratory and sparkling with color" (*The Whole Note*), and *American Record Guide* stated, "there's no denying Houlihan's extraordinary achievement." Houlihan's other recordings include music by Maurice Durufé and Jehan Alain, and Organ Symphony No. 2 by Louis Vierne, both on Towerhill Records.

In 2017 Christopher Houlihan was appointed to the [John Rose College Organist-and-Directorship Distinguished Chair of Chapel Music at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.](#) succeeding his former teacher, John Rose. He was previously artist-in-residence at Trinity College, as well as Director of Music and Organist at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Manhattan.

In addition to his studies at Trinity College, Houlihan studied with the Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School, where he earned a master's degree, and with Jean-Baptiste Robin at the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles. In 2015 he was selected for *The Diapason's* "20 Under 30", a distinguished list of leaders in the organ world.

Christopher Houlihan is represented in North America exclusively by [Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists](#).

THE EAST CHURCH, UCC
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & ARTS
PRESENTS

Handel's
Messiah
Sing-along

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

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 107th
Candlelight Christmas Service
Shall I Rejoice?

December 8, 2024 at 4:30pm

preservice music at 4:00pm
no charge ~ freewill offering

First (Park) Congregational Church
10 East Park Place NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.parkchurchgr.org





Holland
Chorale



A VISION OF
COMFORT AND JOY

DECEMBER 15 3:30 pm | FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Remember that year when our holiday concert featured not one, not two, but three versions of “I Saw Three Ships (Come Sailing In)”? Well, there are no sailing ships in this year’s holiday repertoire, but we’ve got plenty of other festive and inspiring music to share with you at Christmas with the Chorale:

A VISION OF COMFORT AND JOY!

Join the Chorale and special guest West Michigan Children’s Choir on Sunday, December 15, at 3:30pm at First Reformed Church in Holland. Tickets are on sale now at hollandchorale.org!

First Reformed Church

630 State Street

Holland, MI 49423



King's College Choristers – Photograph by Leon Hargreaves

Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Guest Director Richard Webster

Dates:

Saturday December 14 @ 7 pm

Sunday December 15 @ 3 pm

Tuesday December 17 @ 7 pm

Location:

Basilica of St Adalbert

654 Davis NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504 [map](#)

All concerts are offered free of charge with a free-will offering taken.
No tickets are necessary. Arrive early for best seating

Recording - the Sunday performance will be recorded with enhanced audio/video and posting within a few days, on our website grcmb.org

Child Policy - Due to the meditative nature of these programs, it is best for children to be of at least school age to attend. Thank you in advance for respecting all concert attendees.

The Calvin Alumni Choir presents

ANGELS OF GOD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024
CALVIN UNIVERSITY CHAPEL
7:30 P.M.

Sean Ivory, Director
Julia Brown, Accompanist
Randy Van Wingerden, Assistant Director

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!

No tickets needed. A freewill offering will be taken



O EMMANUEL

Featuring the works of Forrest, Pärt, Willcocks & Ešēnvalds
Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM
First United Methodist Church



Voxmas

2024

FEATURING



Edye & Mike



GRAND RAPIDS & SOUTH HAVEN

DECEMBER 21 | 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 22 | 4:00 PM



Vox GR
CHORAL ENSEMBLE
DR. CHRISTOPHER MASON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Vox GR is supported in part by
the Michigan Arts and Culture
Council as the NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS



Dec 21—7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids

December 22—4:00 p.m. Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, South Haven

[Tickets](#)



PALESTRINA 500

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE QUINCENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY OF
CATHOLICISM'S PREEMINENT COMPOSER,
HEARING HIS MUSIC AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE HEARD:
IN THE HOLY MASS

OPENING MASS • DECEMBER 9TH, 2024

CELEBRATED BY BISHOP WALKOWIAK • MASS AT 5:30PM • NO HOLY HOUR

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2025

HOLY HOUR: 5:30PM • HOLY MASS: 7:00PM
151 GARFIELD AVE SW, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504

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|-------------|---|---|------------|
| JAN 6 | SCHOLA ANTIQUA OF CHICAGO <i>Missa Alma redemptoris Mater</i> Epiphany | THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOLA CANTORUM <i>Missa Tu es Petrus</i> Our Lady of Mt. Carmel | JULY 16 |
| FEB 14 | THE GESUALDO SIX <i>Missa Sine nomine</i> St. Valentine's Day | HIS MAJESTY'S MEN <i>Missa Regina caeli à 5</i> Assumption | AUG 15 |
| MARCH 25 | HOPE COLLEGE CHAPEL CHOIR <i>Missa Brevis</i> Annunciation | GAUDETE GRAND RAPIDS <i>Missa de Beata Virgine à 4</i> The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary | SEPT 15 |
| APRIL 25 | THE TALLIS SCHOLARS <i>Missa Papae Marcelli</i> Easter Friday *Holy Hour at 5PM | THE TRINITY CHOIR <i>Missa O Rex gloriae</i> Our Lady of the Rosary | OCT 7 |
| MAY 29 | VOX GR <i>Missa Ascendo ad Patrem meum</i> Ascension Thursday | SCHOLA CANTORUM DETROITENSIS <i>Missa da Requiem (with duCaurroy's Requiem)</i> All Souls' Day (transferred) | NOV 3 |
| JUNE 27 | FLORIANI <i>Missa Aeterna Christi munera</i> Patronal Feast of the Sacred Heart | SACRED HEART PARISH & ACADEMY CHOIRS <i>Missa ad Fugam</i> Immaculate Conception | DEC 8 |

PRESENTED BY
SACRED HEART of JESUS
CATHOLIC PARISH