



GRAND RAPIDS

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THE CIPHER

February 2025

Dear friends,

Where has January gone?! Perhaps it felt like one of the longest months or perhaps it flew by. Nevertheless, please check out the upcoming musical events on our program calendar. There is plenty of great music making in this year ahead!

Thanks to all who participated in our discussion about engaging the young organists in our chapter. We were able to hear from several members who have experienced and organized programming geared towards youth. The board wishes to continue this discussion as we plan for the next program year and beyond. If you couldn't attend and have any thoughts or ideas, please don't hesitate to send a message our way.

This month we highlight organ music that will be featured in worship services at the annual Calvin Symposium on Worship. The Vesper Prayer Service on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. in the Calvin University Chapel features songs and instrumental pieces from around the world related to the Lord's Prayer. Local organist and instructor, Rhonda Edginton, is collaborating with local clarinetist John Varineau, as well as musicians from Cuba, Hong Kong, and Pakistan. Instrumental meditations include pieces by Conner Chee, Hina Sakamoto, and Fela Sowande. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear these intriguing and infrequently performed works!

The worship service on Friday, Feb. 7 at 3:45 p.m. in the Covenant Fine Arts Auditorium will be a more traditional service featuring the Calvin University Capella and Hope College Chapel Choir, accompanied by Kenneth Bos and Rhonda Edginton. Anthems include "O Love" by Elaine Hagenberg, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" by Thomas Dorsey, arr. Arnold Sevier, and "With What Shall I Come?" by Rosephanye Powell.

All Symposium worship services are free and open to the public, or may be viewed on YouTube ([view Thursday](#) / [view Friday](#)).

Breakout sessions require conference registration. Find the full schedule of events and registration information on the 2025 Symposium on Worship website.

Whether in person or online, I hope you take advantage of experiencing these services!

Matthew Jakubisin, Chapter Dean



February Program

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

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

Calvin Symposium on Worship

Calvin University
3201 Burton St., SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Join hundreds of other church musicians and leaders from around the country and the world at the annual Calvin Symposium on Worship.

Two services feature local organist Rhonda Edgington:

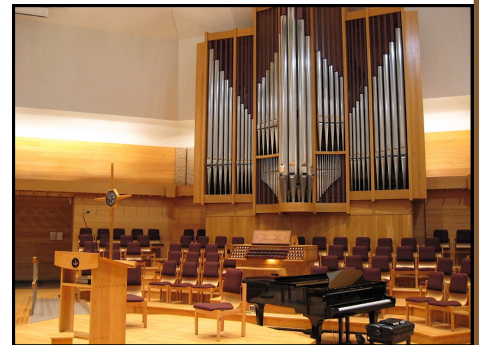
—“Thy Kingdom Come: Global Hymnody in Collaboration”
— a vesper prayer service on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 at 4:00-4:45 p.m. in the **Calvin University Chapel (1835 Knollcrest Circle SE)**

[Watch Live on YouTube](#)

— “The Persistent Widow” – a service of the Word and Sacrament on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 at 3:45-5:00 p.m. in the **Calvin University Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium (1795 Knollcrest Circle SE)**

[Watch Live on YouTube](#)

Other worship services featuring various musical styles are also free and open to the public. Learn more at <https://cicw.eventsair.com/wsypm25/>



Upcoming Programs for the 2024-2025 year

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

**First Presbyterian Church
508 Franklin Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417**

Young Artist Recital: Sarah Simko

Dr. Sarah Simko is the Associate Organist and Communications Coordinator at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, in Detroit Michigan. She is the Adjunct Faculty Instructor of Organ at Madonna University. A recent graduate of the University of Michigan, Dr. Simko completed her studies with Dr. James Kibbie and Dr. Kola Owolabi. She received her Bachelors degree from the Eastman School of Music, with Professors Nathan Laube, Edoardo Bellotti, William Porter and Hans Davidsson.



Dr. Simko is the recipient of a Graduate Award from the Presser Foundation, to be used to create a comprehensive set of recordings of organ music by living American female composers. The goal of this project is to expand the accessibility of a rich, and overlooked body of repertoire. More information, including purchasing information for this series of three CDs, can be found under the “Living Voices” tab on this website.

During her time at the University of Michigan, Dr. Simko served as a Research Assistant for a team headed by Dr. Kibbie and Dr. Daniel Forger from the Department of Mathematics. This collaborative project focused on how the brain processes music, through detailed study of the Johann Sebastian Bach’s Six Sonatas (BWV 525-530). Recorded rehearsals and performances of the Sonatas were processed using big data analysis techniques. In conjunction with this work, Dr. Simko has given coaching sessions on these Sonatas. This project concluded in Summer, 2019.

Dr. Simko has given recitals at such notable venues as Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen, Massachusetts; St. Paul’s Cathedral (Anglican), London, Ontario, Canada; Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, Detroit; the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal), Detroit; Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor; among others.

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

Organist and church musician **Dr. Caroline Robinson** has been featured as a solo recitalist across the United States, in venues including New York City churches St. Thomas Fifth Avenue, St. John the Divine, Trinity Church Wall Street, and St. Patrick's Cathedral; in Boston: Church of the Advent, Harvard Memorial Church, Cambridge, Methuen Memorial Music Hall; St. James in the City, Los Angeles; and Kansas City's the Kauffman Center. She has also performed in England, France, and Germany. Her playing has been broadcast multiple times on American Public Media's "Pipedreams," "Pipedreams LIVE!," and Philadelphia-based public radio station 90.1 WRTI's Wanamaker Organ Hour. She has been a featured performer at conventions of the Organ Historical Society, the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival, and the American Guild of Organists, for which she performed on the closing concert at the 2022 National AGO Convention in Seattle, collaborating with Seattle Pro Musica on choral and organ works including James MacMillan's *Cantos Sagrados*.

Dr. Robinson is a laureate of the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP), held as part of the 2018 AGO Convention in Kansas City. She holds First Prize from the 11th annual Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival (2008) and from the 10th annual West Chester University Organ Competition (2010). She was a semifinalist in the 2014 Dublin International Organ Competition. In 2016, she was chosen as one of the Diapason's "20 Under 30" promising young organists in the United States.

Caroline Robinson is Assistant Professor of Organ at the University of Michigan. Previously she served as Organist and Associate Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. There, under the direction of Canon Dale Adelman, she shared organ playing and accompanying responsibilities and led the cathedral's RSCM-based Chorister program. She is an active continuo player with early music ensembles, having performed at the Rochester Early Music Festival, San Francisco's American Bach Soloists Academy, and now regularly with the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra.

Dr. Robinson completed her undergraduate work at the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Alan Morrison. Aided by a grant from the J. William Fulbright fellowship fund, Caroline studied at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Toulouse with Michel Bouvard and Jan Willem Jansen (organ) and Yasuko Bouvard (harpsichord). Caroline holds the Doctor of Musical Arts and the Master of Music in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with David Higgs. Dr. Robinson also received from Eastman the Performer's Certificate and the Advanced Teaching Certificate in Theory Pedagogy.



Dr. Robinson is represented in North America by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.



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

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