



GRAND RAPIDS

The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2024-2025

Officers

[Matthew Jakubisin](#), Dean

[Chris Witte](#), Treasurer

[Alexis VanZalen](#), Secretary

Council Members at Large

[David Bading](#), Membership

[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

THE CIPHER

March 2025

Sunday, March 9

4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
508 Franklin Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Young Artist Recital: Sarah Simko

In cooperation with our friends in the
Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter



 **YOUNG ORGANIST RECITAL:**
DR. SARAH SIMKO

Sunday, March 9
4 p.m.

 **THIS CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 508 FRANKLIN, GRAND HAVEN, MI FPGH.ORG

March Program

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.



Upcoming Programs for the 2024-2025 year

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 (harpichord). 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

Music at Mid-Day

**First (Park) Congregational Church
10 East Park Place
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

A free community concert series on Tuesdays in downtown Grand Rapids

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

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

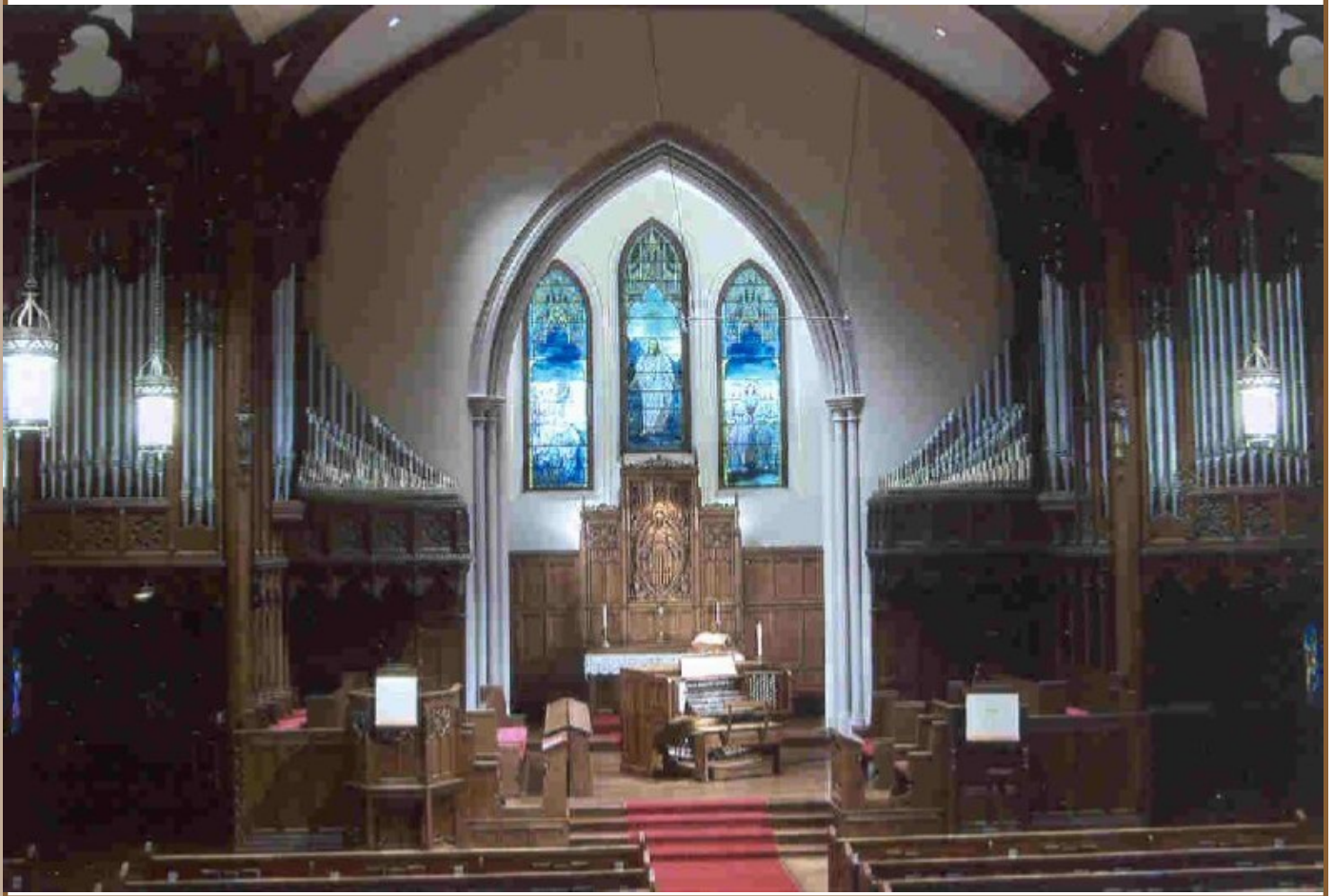
<https://parkchurchgr.org/concerts/>

SPRING 2025

March 11 – Dr. Larry Visser and Rob Hobgood, Organ and Piano

March 18 – Castalia Quartet – Leslie VanBecker

**March 25 – Grand Rapids Christian High School Chamber Choir,
Candice Sytsma, Conductor**





MONDAYS AT MAYFLOWER

presents

LENT BY CANDLELIGHT

During the 2025 Lenten season we present four Lent by Candlelight programs, offering fellowship, food, readings and music. Each Monday we gather in the atrium at 6:30 for a light meal followed by music at 7pm. Our hope is that these evenings bring a sense of stillness and peace to you and your surroundings as you travel through this season of Lent. Free and open to all.



March 10
KAROLIN RAVENS-BANIK
flute
JULIA BROWN
piano

Karolin returns to Mayflower for *A Flute Meditation: Journeying through different eras and colors*.

A native of Hannover, Germany, Karolin studied flute and music education in her native Germany and later studied flute performance at the Sydney Conservatory of Music. Karolin has performed in numerous orchestras and ensembles throughout her life, she has worked as a flute teacher, guest conductor, guest lecturer and as a middle and high school music teacher.



March 17
DEEDEE TIBBITS
Hammered Dulcimer
Soundscapes of the Hammered Dulcimer

Join us as DeeDee Tibbits brings her artistry and enthusiasm to a unique program featuring the hammered dulcimer.

A Michigan native, DeeDee is an accomplished music educator and a regular performer in festivals nationwide.



March 24
DUO TARASQUE
Howell Petty, soprano
Luce Burrell, lute

Howell Petty and Luce Burrell return with a program of Medieval music for voice and lute. Join us as we immerse ourselves in the sonic world of Hildegard of Bingen, and other composers of 700 years ago.

New York City-based Duo Tarasque specializes in medieval repertoire such as trecento music and troubadour song.



April 7
ALICIA EPPINGA
cello
JEREMY VERWYS
guitar

Alicia is principal cello of the Grand Rapids Symphony. Jeremy is a performer, instructor and music therapist. They join forces to present a beautiful evening combining the sound of guitar and cello, featuring music of Vivaldi, Pergolesi, Falla and more.

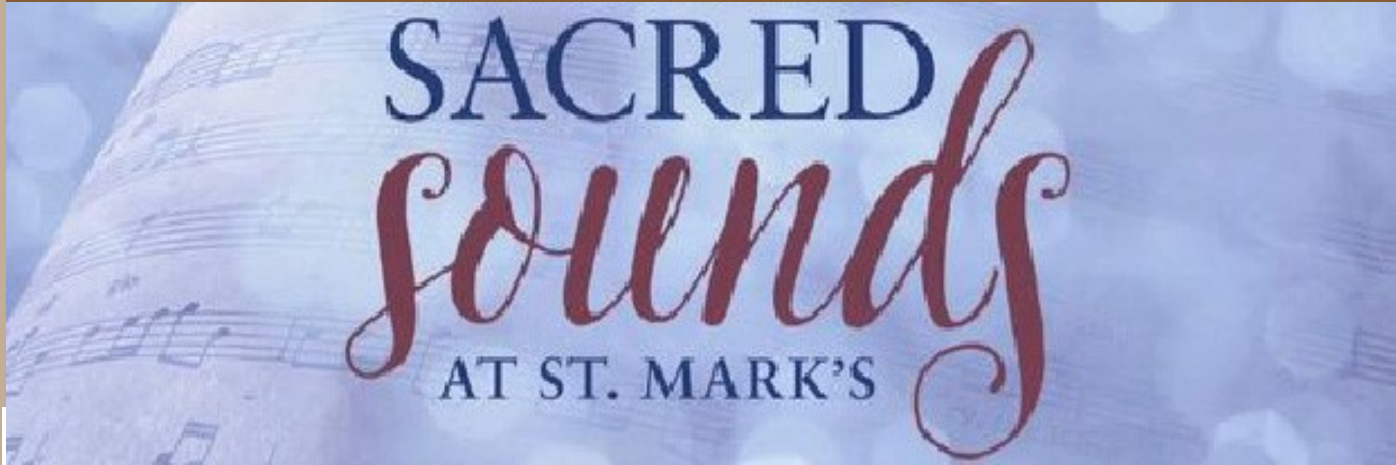
JOIN US FOR MUSIC-FILLED SEASONAL WORSHIP AT MAYFLOWER

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE | APRIL 18 | 6PM

Mayflower's Chancel Choir, directed by Scott Bosscher and organist Julia Brown present David H. Williams' *On the Passion of Christ* and other choral works portraying the drama and emotion of Good Friday.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE | APRIL 20 | 10:30AM

Mayflower's Chancel Choir, Horn Quartet, organist Julia Brown and Scott Bosscher, director, portray the joy of the resurrection story in a music-filled worship service ending with the *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah* sung by all.



VOX GR
CHORAL ENSEMBLE
DR. CHRISTOPHER MASON
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Salutation

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Grand Rapids, MI
March 16 | 5 PM

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





**LENTEN AND EASTER
MEDITATIONS**

FEATURING MEMBERS OF THE
GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY

**Grand Rapids Choir of
Men and Boys**

Saturday March 22nd @ 7pm
Sunday March 23rd @ 3pm

Location:
Basilica of St Adalbert
654 Davis Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

- Free - no tickets needed
- Parking
- Street level elevator access

Doors open 6:15 on Saturday and 2:15 on Sunday

The Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge in Concert in Grand Rapids, directed by Christopher Gray
Don't miss out on a night of sheer choral magic. A once in a lifetime experience...

Buy your [tickets](#) before they sell out!

Hosted by: Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys - Andy Larson Concert Series



Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.
The Basilica of St. Adalbert