



GRAND RAPIDS

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

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THE CIPHER

April 2025

Dean's Letter

Dear friends,

As many of us working in Christian denominations prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Easter, it is a light month for our chapter's programming. In this month's newsletter, please take a moment to read the report from January's meeting about young people and the organ.

Please save the date for Friday May 16 at 7pm to hear Dr. Caroline Robinson in recital at LaGrave Avenue CRC. This will be our final event of the program year and it is sure to be a wonderful recital!

Lastly, throughout spring and summer many of us will be receiving renewal notices for our chapter dues. I hope you respond promptly, as your membership ensures we continue to have an active year of programs and events. Also, I encourage you to reach out to your neighboring organists and invite them to become members of the AGO if they are not already. Regardless of employment, education, or skill level, the more invitations we extend to fellow organists (or organ-enthusiasts!) will only strengthen and enrich our local community of musicians.

Sincerely,
Matthew Jakubisin, Chapter Dean



January Discussion—Young People and the Organ

On January 27th, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church, the GRAGO held a meeting discussing the future of young people and the organ. Rob Hobgood organized the event and several people gave short presentations on their experiences with young people and the organ. Rob Hobgood began with a brief description of a Pedals, Pipes and Pizza (PPP) event he organized in a previous chapter. Bob Houskamp then presented on his program called the Summer Organ Encounter (SOE). This is a program that Bob has completely funded by himself. He is no longer able to maintain the funding and so the future of this program is in question. As one of the main teachers from Holland in Bob's program, Elizabeth West also talked about her experiences with the SOE program. Next, Elizabeth West discussed her experiences leading two Pipe Organ Encounters (POE). Then, Rob Hobgood presented on the Orgelkids kit which allows kids to put together a small pipe organ. The kit can be disassembled and used again at future events. Next, Rob read a submission from Rhonda Edgington who could not be in attendance. She described a family concert she organized centered around animal themes where she played a transcription of Peter and the Wolf and some character pieces by Ian Farrington and a few other fun pieces that engaged the kids. Finally we heard from one of Darlene Kuperus' students and her experiences taking organ lessons and playing in church. There was a brief break for some refreshments followed by some discussion about the presentations and experiences of other members attending the meeting.

Some of the take-aways from this meeting.

1. The AGO events (PPP's, & POE's) are good but quite involved to organize and pull off well (especially if all the work falls mostly on one person).
2. It was stated that Bob Housekamp's SOE program seems to be a good bridge between a PPP (very introductory program for kids who have never played an organ) and a POE (which assumes a certain level of skill at the organ to be involved).
3. There was some discussion of possibly forming a sub committee on young people and the organ to help organize/maintain regular events like those discussed above (or others) in the future.
4. We heard from Alexis Van Zalen and Darlene's student about the importance of the ability to connect with other organists their age. Darlene mentioned the possibility of helping to organize/support a social get-together of young organists before several chapter events throughout the year. This seems to be the easiest way to get started encouraging young organists to becoming/continue their involvement with the organ.

If you have any ideas, questions or willingness to be more involved in this subject, please contact one of your chapter board members.

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 (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

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

April 8 – Diane Penning, Soprano, and Robert Byrens, Piano

April 15 – Easter Break (No Concert)

April 22 – Eric Strand, Organ

April 29 – Bruce Robey and Friends

May 6 – Mary Rademacher





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.



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.

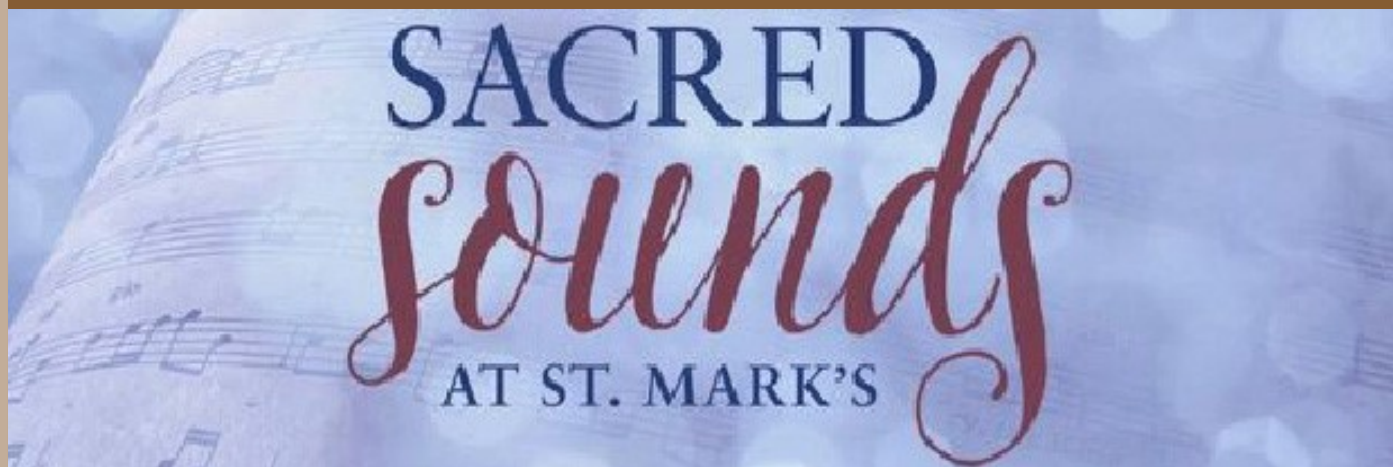
JOIN US FOR MUSIC-FILLED SEASONAL WORSHIP AT MAYFLOWER

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.



“The Sinta [Saxophone] Quartet

recognized as one of the finest ensembles of its type, not only amazed with stunningly virtuosic technique and virtually perfect intonation, but also by its profound attention to the music.” Palm Beach Daily News

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

5:00 P.M

ST. MARK’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

134 DIVISION AVENUE NORTH

GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

