



## GRAND RAPIDS

**The Executive Committee of  
Grand Rapids AGO  
2025-2026**

### **Officers**

[Rob Hobgood](#), *Dean*

[David Bading](#), *Sub Dean,  
Membership*

[Chris Witte](#), *Treasurer*

[Alexis VanZalen](#), *Secretary*

### **Council Members at Large**

[Barbara Dulmage](#)

[Caron Farmer](#)

[Ronald Krebs](#)

[Noah Smith](#)

### **Members Ex-Officio**

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

[Rhonda Edginton](#)  
*Education Coordinator*

[Rebecca Snippe](#)  
*Competitions*

# THE CIPHER

September 2025

## Dean's Letter

Dear Friends:

I hope you all had a marvelous summer filled with some rest and relaxation and that you're feeling rejuvenated as preparation for the fall starts to kick into high gear!

First, let me thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Dean. I have served in this position before in New Jersey, so I'm familiar with the position. However, I'm particularly excited about the high level of programming in the church music and organ community of Grand Rapids. It's an inspiring place to be a musician. A huge thank you is due to Matt Jakubisin for his hard work and organization as Dean the last few years. He has left the chapter in a strong position and I hope to continue the high quality of work he did as Dean. I'm also very grateful to David Bading for agreeing to serve as Sub-Dean. Alexis VanZalen will continue as Secretary and Chris Witte as Treasurer. Barbara Dulmage will continue serving as Member at Large and we welcome new members Caron Farmer from Muskegon and Ron Krebs and Noah Smith from here in Grand Rapids. We have already met several times and this is a fantastic group of people to lead the Grand Rapids AGO. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us with any questions, programming ideas or just for a ride to a monthly program!

I'm excited to present to you our 2025-26 program year which you can find on page 2. We begin in September with our annual installation service which will be held on Monday, September 22 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Sparta. There will be a social time beginning at 6:30 with the prelude for the service beginning at 7:00. The organ at Holy Family Church is a Bedient built in the French Classic style. The organ will be used in the installation service and several members will provide a demonstration of various aspects of the instrument. Afterwards, there will be an open console time, so dust off your Noels and Tierces en taille to come try out on this unique instrument.

I hope to see you at Holy Family and at many other events this year!

Sincerely,  
Rob Hobgood, Dean



## Monthly programs for 2025 – 2026

Here is the lineup of AGO meetings for this season, 2025-2026.

### Monday, September 22, 2025

Dessert Reception – 6:30 p.m.

Service of Installation – 7:00 p.m.

#### Service of Installation

**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
425 South State Street  
Sparta, MI 49345

On Monday, September 22, The Grand Rapids AGO Chapter will hold the Installation of Officers at Holy Family Church in Sparta. Larry Sharp, our AGO Regional Ambassador will preside. There will be a dessert reception prior to the installation service followed by a demonstration of the Bedient organ by parish organist Dick Hoogterp. There will be a brief recital by Rob Hobgood, Larry Sharp, Noah Smith and Alexis Van Zalen. Directions to [Holy Family Catholic Church](#).

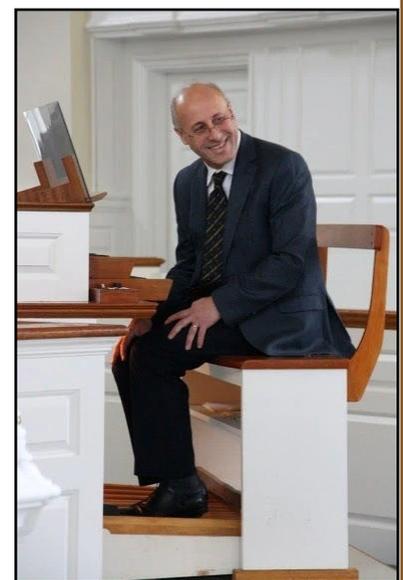


### Monday, October 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

#### Ezequiel Menéndez Organ Recital

**Mayflower Congregational Church**  
2345 Robinson Rd. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

*Mondays at Mayflower* in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents Ezequiel Menéndez. Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez joined the faculty of the College of the Holy Cross in 2018 as Professor of Practice and Distinguished Artist in Residence in Organ. In addition to teaching the college organ scholars, Dr. Menéndez is the curator of the celebrated Taylor and Boody Opus 9 organ in the Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel, as well as the Director of the renowned Chapel Artist Concert Series. Dr. Menéndez loves teaching and mentoring his students, who are consistently recognized for their solid preparation and mature musicianship. For more information see [Ezequiel Menéndez](#).



**Monday, October 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**Annamae Rotman Young Organists Competition**

**Calvin Church  
700 Ethel Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was founded in 2013 by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother and is an annual competition. We thank him for his generous support of young organists. Competitors will each play pieces in variety of styles and a hymn to be sung by the audience. For more details, see our Competitions page: [Competitions](#)

Photo at right is of previous judges and competitors.



**Sunday, November 2, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

**Vincent Dubois Organ Recital**

**East Church  
1005 Giddings Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Vincent Dubois is titular organist at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, France, where he serves alongside Olivier Latry and Philippe Lefebvre. He is also Professor of organ interpretation and improvisation at the Hochschule für Musik (University of Music), Saarbrücken, Germany. For more information see [Vincent Dubois](#).

**Monday, November 3, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

**Vincent Dubois Presentation**

**East Church  
1005 Giddings Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Vincent Dubois, titular organist at Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris will play for and speak to the Grand Rapids AGO chapter.



**Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m.**

**New Year's Eve Concert**

**Todd Wilson**

**Central Reformed Church  
10 College Avenue N.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Todd Wilson is head of the Organ Department at The Cleveland Institute of Music and Curator of the E.M. Skinner pipe organ at Severance Hall in Cleveland, OH. For more information see [Todd Wilson](#).

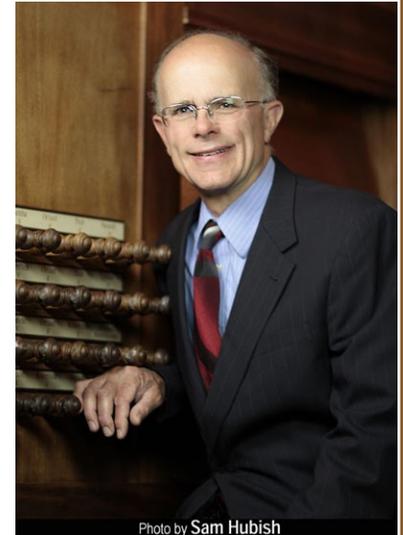


Photo by Sam Hubish

**Monday, February, 2026**

**Social Event for Grand Rapids Chapter AGO**

More details will be announced for a social event which will include a visit to a new residence organ by Wahl Organbuilders, Appleton, WI: Two Manuals and Pedal; Nine stops.

**Sunday, March 1, 2026, 4:00 p.m.**

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

**Young Artist Recital: Chanmi Kim**

Chanmi Kim, originally from South Korea, studied piano, psychology, and child development during her undergraduate years. She was first introduced to the pipe organ in college and was deeply captivated by its wide range of tone, colors and expressive potential. This led her to begin private lessons and later pursue formal studies in the United States.

She recently completed her Master of Music in Church Music with an organ concentration at Baylor University, studying under Dr. Jens Korn-dörfer. During her time at Baylor, she served as organist at both St. Peter's Catholic Student Center and Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. In 2024, she won the Semper Pro Musica Organ Competition at Baylor and had the honor of performing at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Chanmi is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Sacred Music at the University of Michigan and is serving as Organ Scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit.





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

PRESENTED BY  
**SACRED HEART of JESUS**  
CATHOLIC PARISH