



GRAND RAPIDS

The Executive Committee of Grand Rapids AGO 2025-2026

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Competitions

THE CIPHER

October 2025

Dean's Letter

Happy Fall, y'all!

Thanks to all who attended our September installation and organ demonstration meeting at Holy Family Catholic Parish in Sparta. There was a tasty spread of hors d'oeuvres before the short installation service. Dick Hoogterp had interesting remarks about the organ at Holy Family and about other Bedient organs that have come and gone from the Grand Rapids area. The short demonstration recital really showcased the wonderful sounds of the small but very versatile and full voiced instrument. It was an honor to have our regional Ambassador, Larry Sharp present for the event. If you weren't able to make it, you missed a very enjoyable evening. Dick mentioned to me that he would welcome anyone who wanted to come try out the organ - it's well worth the short drive up to Sparta!

This month we have two events for you to consider. Mondays at Mayflower Congregational Church always brings in such wonderful and varied performers each year. On October 13, Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez from College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts will be the recitalist. The following week on October 20, Calvin Church will host the annual Rotman organ competition. This is a great way to hear some local young organist talent from around the area! Please consider attending one or both of these events. You may find out more about each of these events later in the newsletter.

Sincerely,
Rob Hobgood, Dean



Opening Meeting of Grand Rapids Chapter AGO

On Monday, September 22, Regional Ambassador Larry Sharp presided at the opening meeting of the season, a service to install new officers. The program was held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Sparta, Michigan, and was the first meeting to officially welcome members of the former Muskegon chapter who recently merged with their Grand Rapids colleagues. The service featured Bedient Opus 66, II/16, 2000, which was perfectly suited for the Manz *Partita on St. Anne* that organist Fred Vipond played for the opening voluntary. The service continued with hymns, genial remarks by Dr. Sharp, recognition of former officers and the formal installation of the new board.



Following the installation, Dick Hoogterp, Director of Music and Organist for the parish, presented a history of the instrument, including both general information about the Bedient firm and specific comments regarding the selection, design and installation of Opus 66.

The program concluded with a short demonstration recital played by Dean Robert Hobgood, Secretary Alexis VanZalen, Member-at-large Noah Smith and Ambassador Sharp. With composers that ranged from Nicolas de Grigny to Aaron David Miller, each piece was chosen to showcase the instrument's specific stops or ensemble registrations. The organ pervasively filled the room with warm, robust sound and the performances were enthusiastically enjoyed by all.

Monthly programs for 2025 – 2026

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

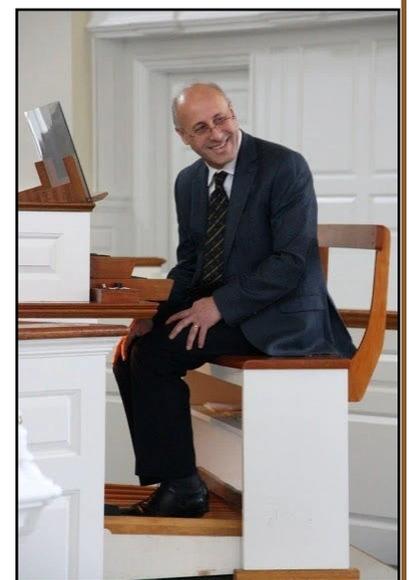
Monday, October 13, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

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](#)

Download, print and post these posters.

[ARYOC Poster 11 x 14](#) [11 x 14 pdf](#)

[ARYOC Poster 11 x 8 1/2](#) [11 x 8 1/2 pdf](#)

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.



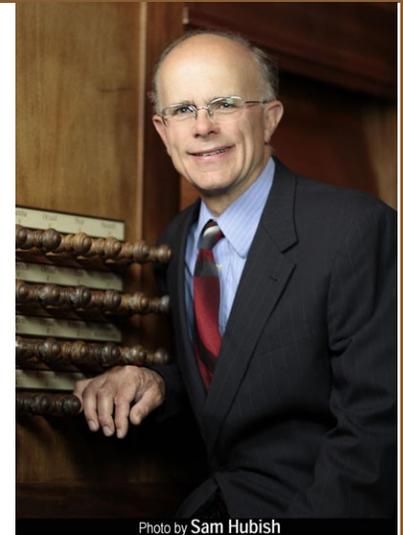
Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

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](#).



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**

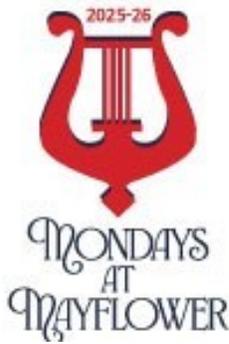
Young Artist Recital: Chanmi Kim

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.





WELCOME TO MONDAYS AT MAYFLOWER

This concert series is an expression of the talents and passions of Mayflower and is supported by Friends of Mondays at Mayflower and others in our community, as an offering to West Michigan and beyond. We welcome all who come through our doors and pride ourselves in offering affordable live music by local and international musicians featuring the finest repertoire. We invite you to join us on Monday evenings and to consider becoming a friend of Mondays at Mayflower with a financial contribution (more information is contained in this brochure).

We look forward to seeing you this season, as this music deepens our spirits and broadens our circle of friends. —Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist.

October 13 | 7 pm

The Mighty Organ

With Ezequiel Menéndez, organist, featuring works by Bach, Franck, Mendelssohn, Ginaster and Piazzolla

Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez is Professor of Practice and Distinguished Artist in Residence in Organ at College of the Holy Cross where he is also Curator of the celebrated Taylor and Boody Opus 9 organ. Known for his ability to play a wide range of music well, making the organ sing, Dr. Menéndez has concertized widely throughout Europe and the Americas. He has been an adjudicator for several national and international competitions. Among his recordings are “French Music at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph” and “Ezequiel Menéndez, LIVE”.



This concert is in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



The Grand Rapids Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists
is pleased to announce the

TENTH ANNUAL

Annamae Rotman
**Young
Organist
Competition**

Monday

Oct 20th @ 7:00pm



Calvin Church

700 Ethel Ave SE • Grand Rapids, MI

10th
EDITION



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

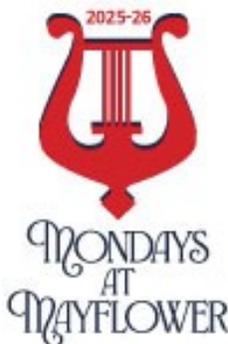
CELEBRATED BY BISHOP WALKOWIAK • MASS AT 5:30PM • NO HOLY HOUR

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



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We look forward to seeing you this season, as this music deepens our spirits and broadens our circle of friends.
—Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist.



October 6 | 7pm FORTE / PIANO

with *Pedro Sperandio*, historic and modern piano in a program featuring sonatas by Dussek and Beethoven.

Pedro Sperandio's striking artistic personality and versatility have earned him a prominent place among the new generation of Brazilian pianists. As a performer, scholar, and educator, he has developed an international career rooted in both historically informed performance and the modern piano tradition. He has studied and performed extensively across Germany, France, Spain, the United States, Canada, and Brazil.



October 13 | 7pm THE MIGHTY ORGAN!

with *Ezequiel Menéndez*, organist, featuring works by Bach, Franck, Mendelssohn, Ginastera and Piazzolla

Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez is Professor of Practice and Distinguished Artist in Residence in Organ at College of the Holy Cross where he is also curator of the celebrated Taylor and Boody Opus 9 organ. Known for his ability to play a wide range of music well, making the organ sing, Dr. Menéndez has concertized widely throughout Europe and the Americas. He has been an adjudicator for several national and international competitions. Among his recordings are "French Music at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph" and "Ezequiel Menéndez, LIVE".



This concert is in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



October 20 | 7pm MUSIC OF ARABIAN SPAIN

with *David Rodgers*, guitar and vihuela

Termed "a prominent guitarist" by the New York Times, and praised by The Washington Post for his "astonishingly florid" improvisations, David Rodgers fuses classical, jazz, and world music into beautiful, expressive and virtuosic performances. He has been called a "modern master" of the classical guitar' by 20th Century Guitar. ClassicsToday.com has praised his "first rate instrumental artistry," and the Lute Society of America Quarterly has called his technique "formidable." His performances have been broadcast on American National Public Radio and Bayerische Rundfunk. David has recorded for Dorian, Callisto and Focus Recordings.



October 27 | 7pm IN THE SHADOW OF VESUVIUS

18th-century music of Naples with *L'Invenzione Baroque Ensemble*. Eloy Corinez, recorder; Mary Riccardi and Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, Baroque violin; Debra Lonergan, cello; Julia Brown, harpsichord.

Founded in 2016, *L'Invenzione* has drawn on the wonderfully rich music of 17th and 18th Century Naples, the undisputed "capital of the musical world" of that time. The profound influence the city's music and musical figures had on the rest of Europe has been reflected in the ensemble's ever-widening repertoire. The program includes music of Mancini, Gallo, Fiorenza and Scarlatti.

Join us for **LENT BY CANDLELIGHT**, which combines a light meal at 6:30 followed by gentle music in the atrium, providing stillness and peace on Monday evenings in Lent. February 23 and March 2, 9, 16, 23.

SPECIAL CONCERT

Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 3pm
(2:15 pre-concert conversation)

FINDING AMERICA with *GV Piano Chamber Series*

The program includes works of Rebecca Clarke, Paul Hindemith and Ernő Dohnányi. Kimia Ghaderi, violin; David Lau, viola; Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello and Sookkyung Cho, piano.



November 3 | 7pm NANCY MARTIN MEMORIAL CONCERT

JOHN RUTTER'S REQUIEM AND 17TH CENTURY LUTE SONGS

with *Mayflower's Chancel Choir and friends*, instrumentalists, Howell Petty, soprano, and Mark Webb, guest conductor.

Composed in 1985, Rutter's Requiem is intimate, contemplative and lyrical, moving towards light, with the closing ethereal "Lux Aeterna". The concert also features Duo Tarasque: Howell Petty, soprano and Luce Burrell, lute, performing music of the 17th century.



For more details on concerts, visit MayflowerChurch.org/concerts

Journey with Vox GR

Season 4

Eastern
Soundscapes

10/11/2025

Northern
Lights

12/20 & 12/21/2025

Southern
Harmony

3/10/2026

Western Edge
of the World

5/14/2026

Oct 11, 2025, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM
First (Park) Congregational Church
10 E Park PI NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Eastern Soundscapes: Journey to the east with Vox GR on our first concert of the 2025-2026 season! You'll hear music from South Korea, the Philippines, and China. We will also feature special guest choirs from Hudsonville High School and Rockford High School.

[Tickets](#)



Music at Midday

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

A FREE CONCERT SERIES IN THE CITY

Park Church offers Music at Midday: a free community concert series on Tuesdays in downtown Grand Rapids. Our concerts begin at 12:15 and last for 30-40 minutes.

Oct. 7 Mike Lutley Trio, jazz

Oct. 14 Mark S. Kahny, piano

Oct. 21 Roger MacNaughton, pianist/composer

Oct. 28 Dr. Christopher Dekker, organ and Andrew J. Plaiser, cello

Nov. 4 Robert S. Ragoonan, organ

Nov. 11 Alger and Burton Middle School choirs

Nov. 18 The River Rogues, jazz band

Nov. 25 Rhonda Sider Edginton, organ and Carolyn Koebel, percussion

While the concerts are free, there is an optional lunch available for \$7.00 payable at the door (cash is preferred). Lunch is served both before and after the concerts in our fellowship hall.

The items are boxed or individually wrapped, and the menu varies by the week.

Feeding the Soul of the City

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1006 Third Street, Muskegon Michigan 49440



Feeding the Soul of the City lunch hour concerts began in February 2001 as a memorial to local musician John Robert Welsh. They continue today as a donor supported concert series. This unique venue provides a pleasant and casual respite from the work and school day by offering fine music in a beautiful setting. The concerts are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served for free, and one can bring a bag lunch to enjoy before or during the concert. A few minutes of prayer will be held in the church shortly before the performance. We send out notices or e-mail reminders before each concert. To be on our mailing list or e-mail list, contact Elizabeth at ebsnflows@gmail.com.

The church is handicap accessible.

Concerts on Tuesdays, 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

October 28-Lee Murdock (maritime folk)

November 25-Peter Steiner & Constanze Hochwartner (trombone & organ)

December 9-"Christmas at the Organ" with Caron Farmer

February 24—Neil Jacobs (12-string guitar)

April 28-Aebersol & Neiweem (classical piano duo)

March 24—Max and Ruth Bloomquist (folk, bluegrass)

May 26-GVSU Chamber Orchestra (classical)

June 9-AgawDilim (Iranian/world music)

The Sixth Annual Joy Huttar Memorial Recital
Featuring Organist

—
—
Dr. Julia Brown
—
—



Grace Episcopal Church
555 Michigan Ave · Holland, MI

—
—
Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 PM
Free Admission



BACH CHORALE OF GRAND RAPIDS



Sunday, November 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Central Reformed Church
10 College Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI

J. S. Bach's Cantata 72, "Alles nur nach Gottes Willen", Telemann's motet "Ein' feste Burg", and Bach's Concerto for oboe d'amore, with soloist Nermis Miseses, professor of oboe at Michigan State University.

The
Choral
Scholars
Present

Make a Joyful Noise

Twenty Years of Praise

Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

