



GRAND RAPIDS

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Grand Rapids AGO
2025-2026

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THE CIPHER

November 2025

Dean's Letter

It's been a busy few weeks in the GRAGO with our October program at Mayflower Congregational Church co-sponsoring Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez in concert, followed by the Anname Rotman Young Organist Competition last week, and the upcoming events featuring Vincent Dubois. It's wonderful to be in a chapter with so many events to take advantage of. First, congratulations to Noah Smith for taking first place in the Rotman competition. Anna O'Neill and Rebecca Voogt placed second and third, respectively. All of the contestants played quite well and it's exciting to hear such talented young players from our region. This weekend features a double-header with Vincent Dubois in recital on Sunday at 3 PM and giving a presentation on Monday night at 7 PM. Both programs are at East Church UCC. Vincent Dubois is titular organist at Notre Dame de Paris in France along with Olivier Latry and Philippe Lefebvre. He is one of the top organists in the world right now, so I hope you'll take advantage of his presence in Grand Rapids.

Sincerely,
Rob Hobgood, Dean



Report on October Meetings of Grand Rapids Chapter AGO

Monday, October 13 Ezequiel Menéndez performed an organ recital at Mayflower Congregational Church. The program was co-sponsored by the chapter in conjunction with *Mondays at Mayflower*, an outreach ministry that offers music by local and international artists playing sacred and classical repertoire. The five-manual, 93-rank organ was originally installed by the Tellers Organ Company in 1968 and rebuilt by the Lauck Organ Company in 1998.

Dr. Menéndez has been a faculty member of College of the Holy Cross since 2018, following 26 years as the Director of Music for the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford Connecticut. He has presented recitals throughout the Americas and Europe, including programs for AGO Regional and National Conventions.

The recital featured a noteworthy group of three significant passacaglias by Handel, Rheinberger, and Reger. In addition, Dr. Menéndez acknowledged his Argentinian roots by including a Toccata by Alberto Ginistera. He also performed two Tangos by Astor Piazzolla, which he transcribed for organ and described as a fusion of traditional, jazz and classical elements.

Monday, October 20 The 10th annual Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was held at Calvin Church this year. Established in 2013 by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother, the competition is open to area contestants under 24 years of age. Literature is at the discretion of the performer and includes 7 minutes of selections by Baroque composers and 7 minutes of music from other periods. Each participant also plays a hymn that is sung by the audience. The organ at the church is a 3-manual, 50-rank Æolian-Skinner built in 1957 and updated by Quimby Pipe Organs in 2009. Dr. Gregory Crowell, Matthew Jakubisin, and Dr. Norene Walters were the judges for the event.

The \$1500 first prize winner was Noah Smith, a University of Oklahoma graduate who recently joined the music staff at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids. The second prize of \$1000 was awarded to Anna O'Neill, a student of Rhonda Edgington at Aquinas College. Rebecca Voogt, a high school student of Dr. Darlene Kuperus, received the \$500 third prize. We extend our congratulations to these accomplished performers and wish them well in their future endeavors, and we thank Dr. Rotman for his continuing support of this event.



Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez with Dr. Julia Brown, Mayflower Director of Music and Organist



(from left) Dr. Richard Rotman, Anna O'Neill, Rebecca Voogt, Noah Smith

November Artist Concert Grand Rapids Chapter AGO

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

Vincent Dubois Organ Recital

East Church UCC
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](#). This program is sponsored by East Church and co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of AGO.



PROGRAM

Prelude and fugue in b minor BWV544

Johann Sebastian BACH
(1685-1750)

Choral No 1. in E major

César FRANCK
(1822-1890)

Final (from *Symphonie No. 6, op 59*)

Louis VIERNE
(1870-1937)

Danse macabre

Camille SAINT-SAËNS
(1835-1921)

INTERMISSION

Suite op.5

Prélude
Sicilienne
Toccata

Maurice DURUFLÉ
(1902-1986)

Prélude in g minor “Alla marcia”

Sergueï RACHMANINOFF
(1873-1943)

from *Évocation*
Allegro deciso

Marcel DUPRÉ
(1886-1971)

Improvisation

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

Vincent Dubois Presentation

**East Church UCC
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.



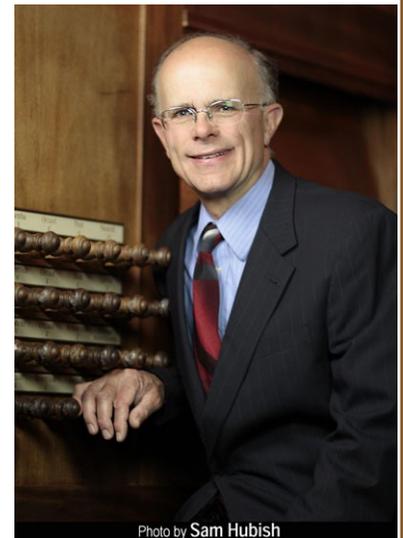
Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

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.



CONCERT REVIEW

“Fluency and freedom ... a kaleidoscope of colors. The applause was loud and long...”

—THE CALGARY HERALD

RECORDING REVIEW

Franz Liszt: Organ Works

“Vincent Dubois turns in absolutely stunning performances ... He plays with consummate passion and breathtaking virtuosity ... He also knows how to spin a phrase.”

— THE AMERICAN ORGANIST



VINCENT DUBOIS

Titular Organist, Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Paris

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

East Church

1005 Giddings Ave. S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

All are welcome. No admission charge.

Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.
www.concertartists.com



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

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



Celebration of Music Concert Series



Sunday, November 2, 2025

3 pm | Trinity Lutheran Church

LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING

Calvin University Capella Choir, Dr. Mark Stover, Conductor

Join the renowned Capella of Calvin University under the direction of our new Worship Associate and Director of Trinity Choir, Dr. Mark Stover, along with collaborative pianist Dr. Kenneth Bos, for an unforgettable afternoon of choral music as they present a rich and diverse program that spans centuries and styles.

From the timeless beauty of Palestrina's *Sicut Cervus*, the soul-stirring modernity of Caroline Shaw's *And the Swallow*, this concert is a journey through sound, spirit, and social reflection. Experience the power of unity and hope in Rollo Dilworth's *United in Purpose*, the raw energy of Sydney Guillaume's *Blogodop*, and the heartfelt plea for peace in Kyle Pederson's *Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?*. With beloved classics like Vaughan Williams' *Let All The World in Every Corner Sing* and reimagined legends such as Bob Dylan's *The Times They Are a-Changin'*, this performance is a vibrant celebration of music's power to inspire, connect, and transform.

**Trinity Lutheran Church
2700 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Organ Recital

FEATURING
DAVID BRIGGS



November 4, 2025
Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts

Pre-Concert Lecture 6:00 p.m.
Organ Recital 7:00 p.m.

*This concert is made possible by
a bequest of the late David Roossien,
whose generosity continues to enhance
Hope College's vibrant tradition of
musical excellence.*

 **Hope COLLEGE**
Department of Music

FREE ADMISSION

**Compositions by: Hakim,
Alain, Bach, Saint-Saëns;
concert improvisations in
the style of Bach, Mozart,
Mendelssohn, and Ravel.**

LaGrave Avenue
Christian Reformed Church
presents:

TYLER BOEHMER

Performing works by:

Campbell

Mendelssohn

J.S. Bach

Fauré

Escaich

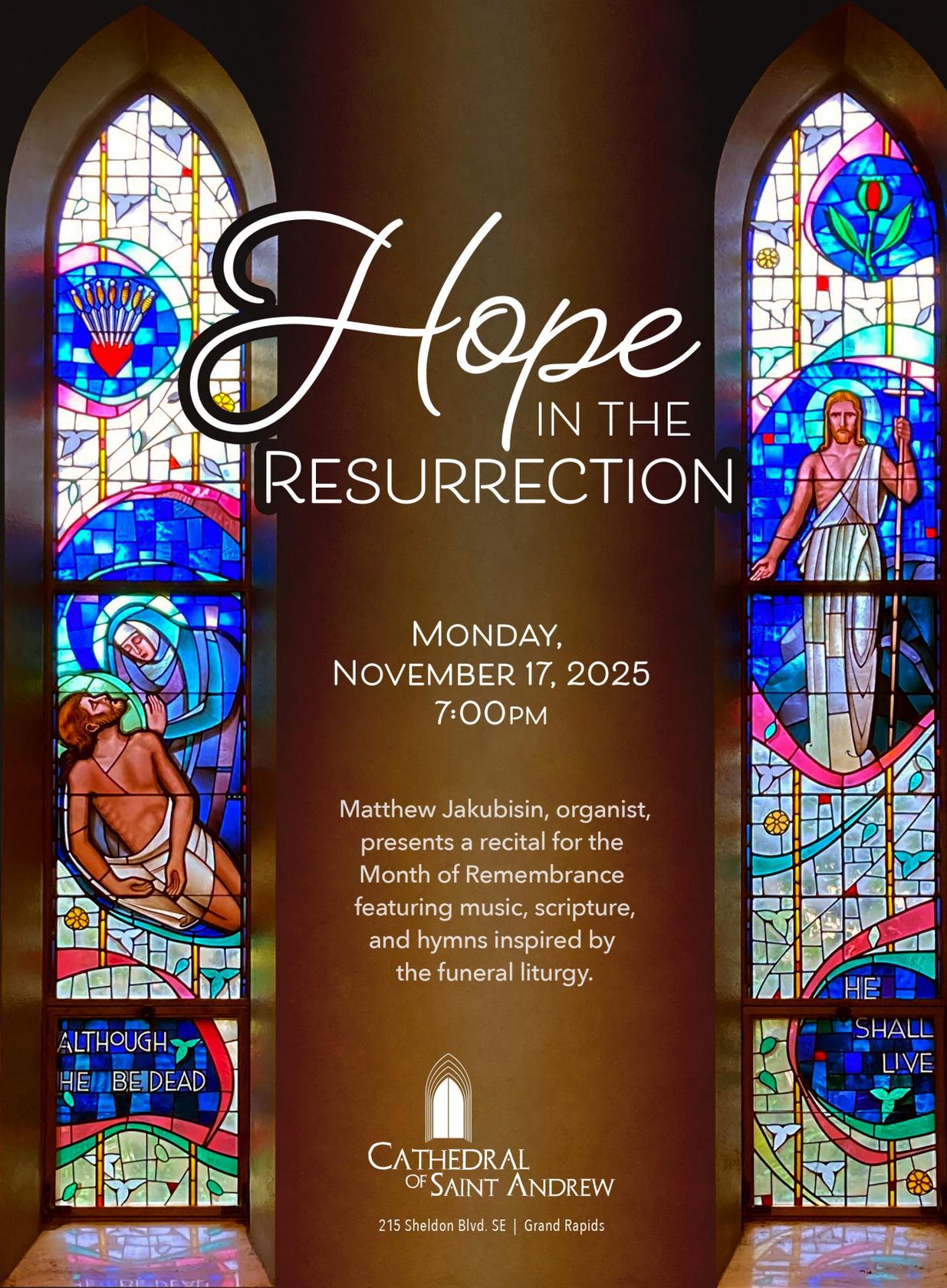
Lloyd

Heaps

Durufié



November 7, 2025 :: 7:00 PM
107 La Grave Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Hope

IN THE
RESURRECTION

MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 17, 2025
7:00PM

Matthew Jakubisin, organist,
presents a recital for the
Month of Remembrance
featuring music, scripture,
and hymns inspired by
the funeral liturgy.

ALTHOUGH
HE BE DEAD

HE
SHALL
LIVE



CATHEDRAL
OF SAINT ANDREW

215 Sheldon Blvd. SE | Grand Rapids



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).

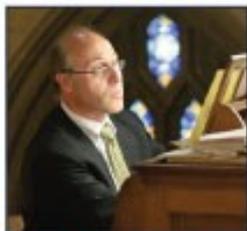
We look forward to seeing you this season, as this music deepens our spirits and broadens our circle of friends.
—Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist.



October 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



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.

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

Dec. 2 Caledonia High School Choralaires and Chamber Singers

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.

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



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.

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)