

Before Bach's Birthday Bash
March 19, 2022 – Hour 2, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Saint Paul, Minnesota

St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel of the University of St. Thomas
Cleveland Avenue North between Ashland and Portland

[1987 Kney](#), mechanical key action and electric stop action (3 manuals, 40 stops, 56 ranks)
Also, Steinway 9' grand piano

BACH: Prelude and Fugue in D, BWV 532
—Brenda Sevcik, organ

BACH (arr. August Stradal): Andante (Adagio), from Trio Sonata No. 4, BWV 528
—Jeana Ogren, piano

BACH: Gamba Sonata in G, BWV 1027
—Will Richardson, cello; Stephen Self, piano

BACH (arr. E. Power Biggs): *Sheep may safely graze*, from Cantata BWV 208
—Russ Carlson, organ; Kathleen Hollar, piano

REGER: *Melodia*, Op 59, no. 11
BACH: *Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein*, 668a
BACH: *Aus tiefer Not*, BWV 686
—Kathrine Handford, organ

Biographies

Russ Carlson, Director of Music Ministries at Grace Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, has been a church musician in various capacities for over 50 years serving in the Twin Cities. Russ earned his Bachelor's Degree from Augsburg University in Music (Education).

Kathrine Handford is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she received the highly coveted Performer's Certificate in Organ Performance. In 2020, she obtained a diploma in Recording and Production Arts from the University of Stavanger in Norway. She has received many grants and awards, including the National Endowment for the Arts and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She is a past winner of the International J. S. Bach Competition held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the John R. Rodland Scholarship Competition in New Jersey. She is a member of the program committee and executive board of the Twin Cities AGO, and serves on the board and governance committee of the American Composers Forum. Presently, she is organist at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Fridley, Minnesota.

Kathleen Hollar, organist at Grace Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, earned two Bachelor's Degrees at Stetson University in Florida, her Masters at Rollins College, and doctoral work at Columbia University.

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Pianist **Jeana Ogren** has collaborated with many well-known professional singers and instrumentalists throughout California and the Upper Midwest. She is currently an active freelance and chamber musician in the Twin Cities.

Will Richardson is a cellist and teacher in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area. He is a co-founder of North Star Cello Academy located in Roseville, Minnesota, and instructor of cello at Century College and Inver Hills Community College. He completed his Bachelor of Music and Performer Diplomas at Indiana University.

Stephen Self is Director of Traditional Music at Wayzata Community Church where he plays the seventy-rank Hendrickson pipe organ. He holds doctoral degrees in musicology and organ performance and is a member of the Minnesota Bar. In addition to his activities as an organist, Stephen also plays solo and collaborative piano recitals. He has worked with members of the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and he is a member of various chamber ensembles.

Brenda Sevcik, a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, serves as the Director of Music at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Savage, Minnesota. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 2020 with degrees in Organ Performance and Instrumental Music Education where she studied organ with Dr. Randall Harlow. Brenda enjoys sewing, traveling, baking, and riding tandem bicycles in her free time.