Before Bach’s Birthday Bash

MIchael Barone

**THE TCAGO BEFORE BACH’S BIRTHDAY BASH 2022 IS UP AND RUNNING...**

with five engaging and entertaining events on March 19, 2022, at four venues in Saint Paul, and you’re invited to attend some or all of the activities as we celebrate Johann Sebastian Bach and take a musical journey from one end of Summit Avenue to the other. Here are the details:

9:00–10:00 a.m. – hear the 27-rank 1999 Fritz Noack organ at St. Mary’s Chapel of the Saint Paul Seminary (2260 Summit Avenue). This event will be further shared via a LIVE Classical MPR broadcast on Classical Minnesota Public Radio (99.5-KSJN in the Twin Cities).

10:30–11:30 a.m. – enjoy the 56-rank 1987 Gabriel Kney organ at St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel of the University of St. Thomas (Cleveland Avenue North between Ashland and Portland).

**Lunch on your own**

1:00–2:00 p.m. – delight in the 27-rank 1964 Aeolian-Skinner organ at St. Clement's Episcopal Church (901 Portland Avenue).

2:30–3:30 p.m. – we’re double-dipping at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church (797 Summit Avenue), sampling the impressive 97-rank 1979 C. B. Fisk pipe organ in the first hour.

4:00–5:00 p.m. – this second hour, also in the Sanctuary of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church (797 Summit Avenue), primarily features the church’s splendid Bösendorfer Imperial Concert Grand, but also a surprise tribute to B-A-C-H.

Most music will be by JSB, but since the 19th is also the birthday of Max Reger (b. March 18, 1873), we’ve incorporated a few of his pieces, too, just for variety. In addition to organ solos, you’ll hear duets, transcriptions, and chamber music as well. Among the performers who are participating:


Don’t miss out on a festive morning and afternoon of great music...and it’s all free. Masks indoors are required and other COVID controls as may be necessary at the time.
Dean’s Column
JACOB BENDA

Gift
I recently listened to a reflection by Bishop Robert Barron centered on the challenge of giving. He pointed out the interesting fact that the word gift means poison in the German language. Does our understanding of gift coincide with the German definition?

The concept of giving is related to offering something to another without expecting anything in return. How difficult it is to both give and receive. I think about the times I have given a wedding gift expecting a thank you note in return, played a concert and sought praise, or said thank you to someone and anticipated an acknowledgement of my gratitude. When the coin is flipped, and I am placed on the other side of those scenarios, it is just as challenging to receive. What is the antidote to this poison that can taint the dual-sided nature of giving? Humility.

I remember hearing a portion of an interview with the violin virtuoso, Hilary Hahn, where she was asked how she deals with performance anxiety. She commented that she has never really had an issue with stage fright for one simple reason: she offers the music as a gift to the audience. This noble approach can often yield the best results because it allows the musician to be vulnerable with the listener and offer the gift of music with no strings attached.

May we always be grateful for the gift music, and the gift of life itself.

A Season of Honesty
Before we know it the season of Lent will be with us. For Christians in the West, it begins this year on March 2, a day called Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of a 40-day period of relative simplicity and sobriety for the church, even self-discipline or sacrifice for some. Lenten prayer and devotion may lead to a commitment of time, energy, or resources for the welfare and healing of human needs around us.

Ash Wednesday is often marked with a smudge of ashes on the forehead, a frequent symbol in the Bible of sorrow or repentance. In one tradition this mark is accompanied by the terrifying words God spoke to Adam before banishing him from Paradise: “By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, until you return to the ground from which you were taken; for you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return.” During my many years of pastoring university students, I was surprised and deeply impressed when they came in large numbers to our Ash Wednesday services. It was often the best-attended service of the year. And there came the brightest and best of our young women and men, to be physically marked as humbled by mortality and failure. What a sign of honesty and truthfulness! What a turn from the images of success we usually pursue! In our day, when “fake” and “virtual” pre-empt reality, when shouting deafens our listening, and threats paralyze us with fear—may our music, our reading, and our prayers bring us calmness and clarity. Let us be honest with ourselves and straightforward with one another. Then we may begin reversing the forces of destruction that engulf us, and look to a world that reflects the heart of God. May the joy of that hope refresh us this Lent!

A Word from Our Chaplain
REV. JOHN SETTERLUND

Gift
I recently listened to a reflection by Bishop Robert Barron centered on the challenge of giving. He pointed out the interesting fact that the word gift means poison in the German language. Does our understanding of gift coincide with the German definition?

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May we always be grateful for the gift music, and the gift of life itself.
Celebrating Young Organists
Faith Talk Preludes, Thursdays during Lent
First Presbyterian Church
6201 Osgood Avenue, Stillwater

First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater is pleased to celebrate new organists during the American Guild of Organists’ “Year of the Young Organist.”

Five young organists will present 15-minute preludes that precede faith talks by First Presbyterian members. The Thursday music and faith collaborations take place at the following dates and times:

- **March 10, 1:00 p.m.** — Evan Pechacek, student of Laura Edman
- **March 17, 7:00 p.m.** — Pascal Givot, student of James Callahan
- **March 24, 1:00 p.m.** — Josephine Brannon, student of Laura Edman
- **March 31, 7:00 p.m.** — Evelyn Rohrbach, student of Laura Edman, Stephen Hamilton, and Christa Rakich
- **April 7, 1:00 p.m.** — Alethea Love, student of Mary Newton

We welcome you to join us and hear young, talented organists play the two-manual Schlicker tracker organ built in 1971 and completed in 2018.

A Vital Organ Project

MICHAEL BARONE

In early December I attended some stimulating concerts of Advent music presented by an imaginative and energetic young composer-organist, Graeme Shields. Founder of the Vital Organ Project, Graeme’s goal is to facilitate the creation, promotion, and performance of new music featuring unique capabilities of the pipe organ.

In two performances...at the Church of St. Peter in North Saint Paul and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis...Graeme presented works by Lauren Redhead, Nico Muhly, Daniel Pinkham, Neil Thornock, Karlheiz Essland and himself...some of them charming, others (several utilizing electronic tracks) challenging, all of them interesting. And with the exception of the Pinkham Variations on “Veni Emmanuel” and a rather way-out piece by David N. Johnson, all of the music was from the 21st century.

Graeme was born in Canada in 1992, earned degrees from Western Michigan University and the University of Minnesota–Duluth. At present he is Director of Music Ministries at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, Illinois, and very concerned about the future of the organ, its music, and its audience.

His presentations were engaging and informative, his performances stellar, and his listeners very receptive. At St. Peter RC Church...a beautiful contemporary facility built around elements of the original brick sanctuary...Music Coordinator Tim Roy must have done a great job of promotion to his community, as a goodly number of parish members (at least 80, including several families with young kids) turned out. The youngsters and their parents clambered around the console afterwards, eagerly asking questions. The turnout at St. Paul’s (20+) was more typical of a minimally-promoted organ event, despite the elegant candle-lit ambience prepared by Jacob Manier.

What Mr. Shields had to share, and the way he shared it, deserves our attention, and I hope he’ll find reason, or invitation, to come back to our Twin Cities soon.

For further information:

VitalOrganProject.com
AmericanCenterofChurchMusic.org

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253-666-5980

**Marcia Metzger**
Flutist
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651-336-7138

**Schantz Organ Company**

**Paul Lohman**
800-326-7426
lohma004@gmail.com
www.schantzorgan.com
David Higgs in Recital at University of St. Thomas

Sunday, March 13, 3:00 p.m.
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
On Cleveland Avenue, between Ashland and Laurel
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

David Higgs is Chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music. He performs extensively throughout the United States and abroad and frequently performs, teaches, and adjudicates at the great organ festivals and competitions around the world. His performances for colleagues include international, national, regional, and pedagogy conventions for the American Guild of Organists and other organizations, as well as in the United Kingdom for the Annual Congress of the Incorporated Association of Organists, and the International Congress of Organists. His performances with numerous ensembles have included the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Orpheus Ensemble, Chanticleer, and the Empire Brass.

Mr. Higgs' program includes Bach's Praeludium und Fuge D-Dur (BWV 532), Florence Beatrice Price's, In Quiet Mood, William Albright's Sweet Sixteenths: a concert rag for organ, and Maurice Duruflé's Suite pour orgue, Op. 5.

The large pipe organ in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas was built in 1987 by Gabriel Kney of London, Ontario. The organ, housed in a classic Werkprinzip case, is a three-manual, mechanical action instrument with 41 stops of 56 ranks, with a total of 2,787 pipes.

The Chapel of St. Thomas is located on Cleveland Avenue at Laurel in Saint Paul. Free weekend parking in Lot G (Cleveland Avenue) and Lot A (Selby Avenue). The free recital is part of the UST Music Department Organ Artist Series, made possible with additional support from the UST Chapel Arts Series and Campus Ministry. For more information, call 651-962-5793.

ASEFA: A Musical Gathering

Sunday, April 3, 2:00 p.m.
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
On Cleveland Avenue, between Ashland and Laurel
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

The New York-based music ensemble ASEFA, drawing on Hebraic and Islamic cultures in North Africa and the Middle East and led by multi-instrumentalist Samuel Torjman Thomas, brings to vivid life a rich mix of Mediterranean musical traditions.

Dr. Torjman Thomas is a multi-instrumentalist (saxophone, oud, vocals, nay, clarinet, percussion) as well as a composer, bandleader, and professor of ethnomusicology, Jewish studies, and interdisciplinary studies. Actively forging an artist/scholar model for over fifteen years, his scholarship and performance center on musics of the Middle East and North Africa as well as Sephardi-Mizrahi studies in poetry, rabbinic thought, and diaspora studies. Besides ASEFA, he is artistic director of the New York Andalus Ensemble. Joining Samuel Torjman Thomas onstage at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas is New York-based violinist Jeremy Brown and Twin Cities favorite, percussionist Mick LaBriola.

The program is free and open to the public. The concert features songs performed in Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, and Ladino. In deference to the pandemic, masks are recommended for audience members.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Jay Phillips Center for Interreligious Studies at the University of St. Thomas, Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council, and the University of Minnesota's Center for Jewish Studies.

TCAGO Organ List

This database of area instruments has been transferred to a new format by David Engen. Dick Greene started the project in the 1970s. The project includes organs across the Midwest. Please visit the link above and send any additions, updates, or corrections to David Engen.
Greetings from Seattle!
KYLE HAUGEN, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS CHAIR AND THE AGO SEATTLE 2022 STEERING COMMITTEE

We are delighted to host the return of the American Guild of Organists National Convention next summer, and look forward to welcoming the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO to THE WELL-TEMPERED FUTURE, July 3–7. Registration is open now!

Your AGO Seattle 2022 steering committee has assembled a diverse, inspiring lineup of performing artists, new music, workshop sessions, and worship experiences. The Twin Cities’ Mark Sedio was commissioned to compose “Nada me falta,” an exciting new bi-lingual setting of Psalm 23 for SATB choir, organ, and percussion.

The new Hyatt Regency in downtown Seattle is our convention hotel, with a fantastic rate for the AGO (visit agoseattle2022.com/hotel). We’ve also secured a discount at Alaska Airlines, with direct flights from MSP. Check your TCAGO members email for a discount code to use when you book online.

We’ve all been tried and tempered by recent events that have impacted our lives and our art. We invite you to look toward THE WELL-TEMPERED FUTURE, celebrating the Guild and the instrument we love.

Convention website & registration: agoseattle2022.com; questions? info@agoseattle2022.com; and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @AGOSEattle2022

See you in Seattle!

Pipe Organ Discovery Day 2022
Saturday, March 5
St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, 9:00 a.m.–noon
901 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

and

St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, 12:15 p.m.–3:00 p.m.
900 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

COVID precautions will be observed

Pipe Organ Discovery Day provides students an opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and, very importantly, to expand their knowledge with hands-on experience on a variety of instruments. The event is free to participants. Family members welcome. Prior keyboard experience is needed to play the instruments; all are welcome to come and learn. A pizza lunch is provided courtesy of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO.

Students will be able to play the organs of both St. Clement’s and St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. These churches are two blocks away from each other. Students will also participate in short classes about how the pipe organ works to gain a better understanding of the instrument and its history.

Registration is required for Pipe Organ Discovery Day. Visit Pipe Organ Discovery Day for the complete schedule registration information, and the most up to date COVID safety protocols information.

Wes A. Huisinga
Oboe, English Horn
and
Oboe d’Amore

612-872-9838
wahuisinga@hotmail.com

available for solo and accompanimental service playing

STEPHEN J. HAMILTON, organist
MICHAEL BARONE, narrator

Marcel Dupré: Le Chemin de la Croix

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL
St. Paul, Minnesota
7:00 P.M. Friday, April 8, 2022
freewill offering
Winter Workshop Cancelled

TCAGO PROGRAM COMMITTEE
As you know, we previously announced that we would postpone the TCAGO Winter Workshop originally planned for January 22, 2022. Based on several factors we have decided to cancel the workshop. Our hope is to coordinate future opportunities with the presenters and graciously thank them for their support, patience, and partnership during these challenging times.

We do apologize and thank you for your understanding.

Calendar of Events

Please check in advance with the venue for COVID-19 precautions or program postponements/cancellations.

MARCH
Thursday, March 3, noon
Concert
Sarah Garner, organist
St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
100 Oxford Street North, Saint Paul

Pipe Organ Discovery Day (TCAGO Event)
Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
St. Clement’s Episcopal Church
901 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul
and St. Paul’s United Church of Christ
900 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul
PRE-REGISTRATION, MASKS, AND PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED

Sunday, March 6, 4:00 p.m.
Witness 2022: Rejoice!
The Aeolians, VocalEssence Chorus, Singers Of This Age
Orchestra Hall
1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
LIVE AND DIGITAL RELEASE

Tuesday, March 8, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals
Paulo Barte, organist
Church of St. Louis, King-of-France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 9, noon
Lenten Organ Series
Joseph Trucano, organist
Chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis
LIVE AND LIVESTREAM
Starting Sunday, March 13
A Virtual Program: O Blessed Spring
National Lutheran Choir
AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING MARCH 13–27

Sunday, March 13, 3:00 p.m.
Concert
Aaron Looney and Lucas Jindra, organists
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley
MASKS REQUIRED

Sunday, March 13, 3:00 p.m.
Concert
David Higgs, organist
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
On Cleveland Avenue, between Ashland and Laurel
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Tuesday, March 15, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals
Laura Edman, organist
Church of St. Louis, King-of-France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 16, noon
Lenten Organ Series
Kenneth Vigne, organist
Chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis
LIVE AND LIVESTREAM

Wednesday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m.
Concert
Jennifer Anderson, organist
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Saturday, March 19, 9:00 am–5:00 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Before Bach’s Birthday Bash
Five concerts in four Saint Paul churches (see page 1)

Sunday, March 20, 5:00 p.m.
Hymn Fest
David Cherwien, organist; National Lutheran Choir;
Saint John’s Boys’ Choir
Saint John’s Abbey
2900 Abbey Plaza, Collegeville

hendrickson organ company
1403 north 5th street m: 507-420-2777
saint peter, mn o: 507-931-4271
56082 f: 507-931-4109
www.hendricksonsorgan.com e: hendorg@aol.com

andreas hendrickson - president
organ building, repair and restoration for over 50 years.
Tuesday, March 22, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals
Andrew Schaeffer, organist
Church of St. Louis, King-of-France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 23, noon
Lenten Organ Series
Kris Rizzotto, organist
Chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis
LIVE AND LIVESTREAM

Saturday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.
Program of Polish organ works
Gail Archer, organist
Holy Cross Catholic Church
1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis

Sunday, March 27, 4 p.m.
Concert
David Hurd, organist
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
3045 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tuesday, March 29, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals
Bryan Dunnewald, organist
Church of St. Louis, King-of-France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 30, noon
Lenten Organ Series
Melanie Ohnstad, organist; Cathie Fischer
Chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.
Organ program
David P. Jenkins, organist
St. Mary’s Chapel, Saint Paul Seminary
2260 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul

Saturday, April 2, noon
Bob Dylan Revisited Tour
VocalEssence
Reif Performing Arts Center
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Sunday, April 3, 2:00 p.m.
ASEFA: A Musical Gathering—Exploring Mediterranean Musical Traditions
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
On Cleveland Avenue, between Ashland and Laurel
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Tuesday, April 5, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals
Gregory Hand, organist; Scott Conklin, violinist
Church of St. Louis, King-of-France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, April 6, noon
Lenten Organ Series
Joseph Trucano
Chapel of Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis
LIVE AND LIVESTREAM

Thursday, April 7, noon
Concert
Jacob Benda, organist
St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
100 Oxford Street North, Saint Paul

Friday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.
Dupré: Le Chemin de la Croix
Stephen Hamilton, organist; Michael Barone, narrator
Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul

Sunday, April 10, 2:00 p.m.
A Passiontide Reflection—The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ
Jacob Benda, organist; Allison Ostrander, violinist; Laura LeVoir, soprano; Elena DeStasio Stabile, alto;
David Walton, tenor; Steven Hodulik, bass
The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
On Cleveland Avenue, between Ashland and Laurel
University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul

Sunday, April 10, 3:00 p.m.
Concert
Catherine Rodland and James Bobb, organists
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley
Masks Required

Sunday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
Hymn Festival
Nathanial Gumbs, organist
Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College
800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter

Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.
Program of Music for Good Friday
Raymond Johnston, organist; Cathedral Singers
Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis
Northrop and Twin Cities American Guild of Organists Present

Hector Olivera: Tantalizing Transcriptions and Tangos

In-person + Livestream Jun 5
On-demand through Jun 12

Internationally acclaimed organ virtuoso Hector Olivera makes his Northrop debut in a program that features works by Meyerbeer, Elmore, Franck, Vierne, and more.

The event begins with the premiere of a 45-minute documentary, The Northrop Organ: Past, Present and Future.

An evening with Mr. Olivera has been described as, “an event, a happening, a joyful celebration of the sheer power and pressure that a true virtuoso like Hector Olivera can unleash in a concert hall.”

—The Times

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Tickets at northrop.umn.edu

Photo: Hector Olivera. Photo courtesy of artist.
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**Chapter Website:** www.tcago.org  
Website Administrators: David Engen (c) 612-801-8662; Kirsten Uhlenberg (h) 651-646-8120

Find us on social media: [Facebook][ Miguel][ YouTube][ Miguel]

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**Pipenotes**

*Pipenotes* is the official publication of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is published nine times a year, September through June. December and January is a combined issue.

**Deadline date**

Information for *Pipenotes* should be received no later than the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. Materials may be sent to Kirsten Uhlenberg, editor.

**Letters to the Editor**

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Send an email to Kirsten Uhlenberg, editor.

**TCAGO Event Promotion via Pipedreams**

A comprehensive listing of organ events statewide is available online via the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*. Information is only as good as the information provided to it, so you are encouraged to send event listings for inclusion at the earliest possible time.

For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, please send information to *Pipedreams* host (and longtime TCAGO member) Michael Barone, or by mail to: *Pipedreams* Calendar, 480 Cedar St., Saint Paul, MN 55101. In a pinch, you may call 651-290-1539.

You are also encouraged to regularly request organ selections on the *Friday Favorites* show with Steven Staruch. Help promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming.

NOTE: It is requested that you include this text in printed programs for any local organ concerts you play or present:

Enjoy the gamut of the pipe organ experience...from ancient to modern, sacred to secular, classical to popular...with weekly broadcasts of *Pipedreams* from American Public Media. Broadcasts in the Twin Cities are heard Sunday mornings (6–8 a.m.) on KSJN-99.5FM and other stations in the Classical MPR network. For your convenience, *Pipedreams* also is globally available 24/7 at www.pipedreams.org or www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams.

The *Organ Calendar* is accessible online and is read in week-appropriate summaries beginning at 7:00 a.m. during each Sunday morning *Pipedreams* broadcast.

**Additional note from Michael:**

In these covid-complicated days, mail is better sent to me at my home address: 456 Cherokee Ave., Saint Paul MN 55107. The office phone still works, and I get emails of messages left there.

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KSJN RADIO BROADCASTS

Minnesota Public Radio

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