

# Pipenotes



Twin Cities Chapter  
of the American Guild of Organists  
Minneapolis & Saint Paul  
TCAGO.org

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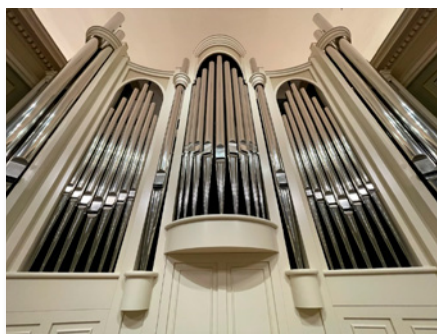
April 2024

## 2024 Competition in Organ Performance

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m.–noon

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul



The pipe organ at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, Minn.

**The public is invited to observe the competition.** The competitors are organists under 24 years of age as of August 1, 2024, and reside (either home or school) in the North Central Region: Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Previous First Prize winners of this competition are not eligible to compete in this competition. (Registration is now closed.) They will perform on the **3-manual, 60-rank 1959 Casavant/2022**

**Letourneau pipe organ** with electric key and stop action.

For more information, contact Isaac Drewes, Competition Coordinator, [idrewes@centralmpls.org](mailto:idrewes@centralmpls.org).

## Pipedreams Organ Scholarship Auditions

STEVE GENTILE

The next *Pipedreams* Scholarship Audition will be held on Saturday morning, April 20, starting at 10:00 a.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 500 Blake Road South (Google and MapQuest may say either Edina or Hopkins).

Two different levels of scholarships are awarded. One for young students in grades 7–12 and one for adult organists wanting to continue their organ study. **Applications are due by US mail by Monday, April 15.**

Complete information, requirements, and application forms are available on the TCAGO website: click Education, then **Pipedreams Organ Scholarships**.

## A Word from Our Chaplain

REV. JOHN SETTERLUND

The newscasts bring daily horror stories from the Holy Land, with people of Gaza dying by the thousands from injury, disease, and starvation. The avenging military refuses to cease fire. Both Israeli

*continued on next page*



## Chapter Programming 2023–2024

**Sunday, September 17**

TCAGO Opening Event: *Pipedreams* 40th Anniversary celebration

**Saturday, October 14**

*Pipedreams* Student Scholarship Auditions

**Saturday, October 21**

Saint Paul Organ Crawl

**Sunday, November 19**

Concert, Dinner, and Presentation-Masterclass with Nathan Laube

**Saturday, February 17**

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

**Sunday, February 18**

The King's Singers (presented by the Bethlehem Music Series)

**Monday, February 19**

Professional Enrichment Day

**Saturday, March 16**

Before Bach's Birthday Bash

**Monday, April 1**

Introduction to the Organ with Anna Lapwood and Mini Opus

**Saturday, April 13**

TCAGO Competition in Organ Performance

**Saturday, April 20**

*Pipedreams* Organ Scholarships Auditions

**Sunday, May 12**

Recital featuring the prize winners of the 2023 North Central Region AGO/Quimby RCYO

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Jews and Palestinian Arabs seem to nurse the hope that maybe the other group will go away. Neither will. The claim to have an exclusive right to that land—reaching from Lebanon in the north to Egypt in the south, and from the Mediterranean on the west to Jordan on the east—cannot be justified on the basis of good behavior, past or present. The present situation didn't begin on October 7, but had been simmering for decades. And, so far, armed force and political maneuvers have not effected peace.

Although I cannot speak knowledgeably for other religious traditions, I do know that the Christian message has a lot more to offer than “Do it my way or die!” Instead, I struggle to work with a system of forgiveness and reconciliation. Stable relations can be formed only when people respect their neighbors and treat them “as you would have them do unto you.” Then there might be a real peace in the Middle East, and elsewhere.

My hope—after traveling there many times and living in Palestine for two years—is that the small Christian population will speak out with this message of reconciliation. May the Church be a catalyst for peace-making. May the song of Bethlehem's angels, “Glory to God, peace on earth!” be heard anew and human minds and hearts be changed. Easter is underway, with its annual hope of restoration and renewal. I pray that God will renew and restore the faithful in every land, and all our neighbors around the world. Make us instruments of your peace!



## Dean's Column

David Jenkins' column will return next month.

### Board Candidates Announced

Once again, chapter elections will be conducted electronically this year. Please watch your email for information and the link to the balloting to arrive in early April.

The members of the Nominating Committee, Phil Radtke (Chair), Joyce Brown, Carolyn Diamond, Laura Edman, and Mary Joy Rieder, list the following slate of candidates for election to the Executive Board:

#### Officers

Dean: Nils Halker  
 Sub-Dean: Michael Barone  
 Secretary: Brenda Sevcik  
 Treasurer: David Geslin

#### Executive Board Members-at-Large (three seats available)

Joel Anderson  
 Phil Asgian  
 Gregory Peterson  
 Tom Rowland

### Rising Stars of the Organ

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.  
 Hamline United Methodist Church  
 1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul



Twin Cities AGO/Quimby 2023 Competition for Young Organists winner Aaron Looney presents a recital showcasing his artistry and skill on Hamline's Casavant organ featuring music by Bach and movements from Vierne's

Symphony VI. The Hamline Church Festival Chorus joins Aaron for Rheinberger's *Stabat Mater* in G minor and Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*. There will be a freewill offering.

Aaron Looney is a student at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is an organ student of Dr. Catherine Rodland. A native of Bridgewater, Virginia, Aaron's musical interests began at the age of five on the piano before shifting to a passion for organ and choral music. Aaron performs regularly at St. Olaf and in the Twin Cities on the organ and has the privilege of singing with and managing the St. Olaf

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**Contact Jeremy Haug**  
**612-578-8058 or [Jeremy.Haug@mountcalvary.org](mailto:Jeremy.Haug@mountcalvary.org)**

Choir. His aspirations are to continue to graduate school upon graduation from St. Olaf to pursue his master's degree and eventual doctoral degree in organ performance. In 2021, Aaron joined the worship team at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota, where he holds a position as Associate Organist. Aaron was awarded second prize in the AGO Regional Organ Competition in 2023.

## Event Recap of Pipe Organ Discovery Day

PHIL ASGIAN

This year's Pipe Organ Discovery Day was our largest ever, and the average age was also much younger as well. We set a new record for attendance with 36 students participating; counting parents, guardians, and TCAGO volunteers, we had 62 in total. Special thanks to our hosts at the University of St. Thomas,



and The Church of Saint Mark, both in Saint Paul, and also for the great work of several members of our Chapter's Publicity, Education, and Hospitality Committees. Through connections at The Church of Saint Mark, we were able to include a fair number of

Home School Network students from Minnesota and Wisconsin. We also tried something new this year by offering three options for



attendance: morning sessions, afternoon sessions, or full day with all sessions. If one adds up the morning and afternoon session counts, those attendees far exceed those that came for the full day.

Pipe Organ Discovery Day is a program of the Educational Outreach Committee of the TCAGO and is free to participants. Young artists, and their parents as well, are encouraged to attend. The event provides students with previous piano or



organ experience an opportunity to learn more about the instrument and, very importantly, to expand their knowledge with hands-on experience on a variety of instruments. As part of the day's events, an educational program

on the pipe organ is also provided. [Additional photos can be found online.](#)

## Event Recap of Professional Enrichment Day

On Monday, February 19, over 100 attendees gathered for a professional enrichment day with The King's Singers and Dr. Don Saliers. The event, hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities was co-sponsored by the Bethlehem Music Series and the TCAGO.

During the first workshop, The King's Singers observed and listened carefully to provide valuable feedback and coaching to the two choirs: The Bethlehem Chorale, directed by David *continued on next page*




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Mennicke, and The Stillwater High School Choir, directed by Angela Mitchell.

After a delightful lunch, attendees had the privilege of listening to the keynote speaker, Dr. Don Saliers, who presented on the topic, *The Lamentable and the Praiseworthy: The Travail of Musical Liturgy Today*. The keynote



address was followed by an engaging Q&A session and discussion.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Maria Bucka and the entire staff at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities for their warm hospitality and valuable partnership!

[Find more photos online!](#)

## AGO/Quimby RCYO Winners' Recital

Sunday, May 12, 3:00 p.m.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

700 Snelling Avenue South, Saint Paul

We are pleased to celebrate winners Trevor Good, First Place, and Aaron Looney, Second Place, from the July 2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists held at Church of Saint Louis, King of France, during the North Central AGO 2023 Regional Convention. They will perform on the **3-manual, 60-rank 1959 Casavant/2022 Letourneau pipe organ**.

Trevor Good is an undergraduate student at the University of Kansas majoring in organ performance under Dr. James Higdon. He began his organ studies in Springfield, Illinois, under the late Dr. Grigory Frederick Guzasky and continued to study under Dale Rogers. Trevor was the winner of the 2021 University of Illinois-Springfield Solo Competition on piano and performed the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto with the collegiate UIS Orchestra. He has given recitals in Springfield both at Westminster Presbyterian Church and at John Brombaugh's renowned Opus 35 at First Presbyterian Church.



Aaron Looney is a senior at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in church music with an organ emphasis under Dr. Catherine Rodland. A native of Bridgewater, Virginia, Aaron's musical interests began at the age of five on the piano before shifting to a passion for organ and choral singing. Aaron performs regularly at St. Olaf and in the Twin Cities on the organ and has the privilege of singing with and managing the St. Olaf Choir.



Aaron currently serves as Student Organist at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota.

This event is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow.

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## Content Organ Dedication

Sunday, April 21, 3:00 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

61 Mississippi Street NE, Fridley

Christoph Bull, university organist and organ professor at UCLA, will dedicate the newly installed 4-manual Content Concerto 476 digital organ. Content Organs is located in Ermelo, Netherlands, and the Concerto 476 will be the largest Content installation in the United States.



photo credit: Thomas Mikusz

Christoph improvised his first melodies on the piano at the age of five and gave his first organ recitals and rock concerts with a band at the age of twelve. His song "Peace" was included on the compilation album *2 Unite All* which also includes tracks by Peter Gabriel, Stewart Copeland, and others. He's worked with ensembles including the National Youth Orchestra of Germany, the LA Master Chorale, the Pacific Symphony, and the Oakland East Bay Symphony. He has given concerts around the world and has been featured on *Pipedreams*.

As a recording artist, he recorded the first solo album featuring the organ at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, entitled *First & Grand*, as well as the pipe organ parts for *Ghostbusters* and *Transformers* at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. He also worked as an organ consultant on Steven Spielberg's *Minority Report* and recorded for Robin Williams' last TV Show *The Crazy Ones*. He has performed with George Clinton and recorded with Bootsy Collins (both as part of Parliament-Funkadelic). Together with Lili Haydn and Satnam Ramgotra, he opened up for Cindy Lauper, and he worked with Harry Connick Jr. on his first Christmas album. The Discovery and Science Channels featured him in the first episode of *How to build... everything*. In addition to his positions at UCLA, he is Organist in Residence at First Congregational Church in Los Angeles, playing one of the largest pipe organs in the world.

## Liquid Music Series Features Davachi

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

Carlson Family Stage, Northrop, University of Minnesota

84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

The first performance in the just announced 2024 Liquid Music Series at Northrop is organist Sarah Davachi, who makes her Northrop debut as composer and performer with an evening of solo organ works featuring her signature textural and



harmonic experimentation on the *Æolian-Skinner, Opus 892*. A visionary talent at the organ, Davachi creates a transcendent experience in the live presentation of her ethereal work.

[Series subscriptions](#) and [single tickets](#) are on sale now.

## Hope Renewed Affirms Community Bonds

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.

Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota

2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis

*Hope Renewed* features the VocalEssence Chorus, Ensemble Singers, diverse teenage choir VocalEssence Singers Of This Age, and special guest artist Shanelle Gabriel's performance of *A Vision Unfolding*. In addition, the concert will include newly commissioned works by Daniel Godfrey and Kyle Pederson.

Shanelle Gabriel is a spoken word poet, singer, lupus warrior, and educator from Brooklyn, New York. "Singing is a community act," says G. Phillip Shoultz, III, associate artistic director, VocalEssence. "Creating something greater than the sum of its parts requires giving empathy and attention to one another. As we use our voices to create a more just and equitable community, it's so important we draw on the hope inside of us. This concert is one way of celebrating that hopeful power." [Tickets are available online.](#)

## Contemplative Prayer with Arnesen Mass

Sunday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1935 St. Clair Avenue, Saint Paul

Pilgrim Lutheran Church will present an evening service of contemplative prayer featuring a 45-minute masterwork by Norwegian composer Kim André Arneson (b. 1980), *The Holy Spirit Mass*, led by the combined choirs of Immanuel



and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches and an ensemble of professional instrumentalists (strings and piano). The piece was originally commissioned and performed by the National Lutheran Choir in 2017 and is offered this day especially to honor the Festival of Pentecost, also with appreciation for Scandinavian music and heritage as many celebrate *Syttende Mai* ("Seventeenth of May") this weekend, otherwise known as Norway's national Constitution Day.

Contact Paul Stever at [SteverPaul55@aol.com](mailto:SteverPaul55@aol.com) for more information.



## Events Calendar

Events are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Please confirm details of events with the venue before attending.

### APRIL

Tuesday, April 9, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Dean Billmeyer, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

Concert: Joseph Trucano, organist

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**

3920 Victoria Street North, Shoreview

Friday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

All-Bach Concert: members of the Arrowhead Chapter of the AGO, followed by a reception and silent auction

**Cathedral of Christ the King**

1111 Belknap Street, Superior, Wisconsin

**TCAGO Event: Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m.-noon**

**2024 Competition in Organ Performance; see page 1**

Saturday, April 13, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Scott Turkington, organist

**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Saturday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Chapel Arts Series: Loretto Aramendi, organist

The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas

**University of St. Thomas**

Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul

Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.

**Orchestra Concert: Mississippi Valley Orchestra**

(program includes Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony with organist Mark Paisar)

**Benson Great Hall, Bethel University**

3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

Sunday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Evan Pechacek, youth organist

**First Presbyterian Church**

6201 Osgood Avenue North, Stillwater

Tuesday, April 16, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Gregory Hand, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, April 17, noon

Hendrickson 30th Anniversary Organ Recital Series:

Andrew Beine, organist

**Central Lutheran Church**

259 West Wabasha Street, Winona

Wednesday, April 17, 12:30 p.m.

Noontime Series: Joshua Lindgren, organist

**St. Olaf Catholic Church**

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

**TCAGO Event: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**

**Spring 2024 Pipedreams Organ Scholarships Auditions;**

see page 1

Sunday, April 21, 3:00 p.m.

Organ Dedication: Christoph Bull, organist; see page 5

The Friends of Music & Artistic Director Stephen Hamilton present a Celebrity Organ Concert

# Basically Baroque

with

**SAMUEL BACKMAN, organist**



**Friday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.  
at Olivet Congregational Church  
on the Dobson organ, Opus 4  
1850 Iglehart Avenue, Saint Paul  
Admission: pay as you can!**

*Suggested admission: \$20.00*

Samuel Backman, Director of Sacred Music at Holy Cross Catholic Church, has been featured on *Pipedreams* and as an organ recitalist for AGO conferences and the Church Music Association of America. Samuel holds degrees from Saint Olaf College (BM), the Yale School of Music (MM), and the University of Oklahoma (DMA).

Sunday, April 21, 4:00 p.m.

Hymn Festival: Bruce Neswick, organist

**First Presbyterian Church**

512 Third Street SW, Rochester

Tuesday, April 23, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Carolyn Diamond, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. — *admission charged*

Liquid Music Series: Sarah Davachi, organist; *see page 5*

Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Durufle's Requiem: Gustavus Choir, Brandon Dean, director; Chad Winterfeldt, accompanist

**Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College**

800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter

Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m. — *admission charged*

New Day: National Lutheran Choir (featuring the Midwest premiere of *Here I Am* by Jocelyn Hagen; Sarah Brailey, soprano; Angelica Cantanti's Treble Singers)

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**

900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Tuesday, April 30, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Kristina Rizzotto, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

**MAY**

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. — *admission charged*

*Hope Renewed: VocalEssence; see page 5*

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. — *admission charged*

Concert: Horacio Lavandera, pianist

**Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**

11 Fourth Avenue SW, Rochester

Saturday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Chapel Arts Series: Jacob Benda, David Jenkins, organists; St. Thomas Festival Orchestra; Matthew George, conductor (works by Poulenc, Callahan, Elgar, and more)

The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas

**University of St. Thomas**

Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.

Rising Stars of the Organ: Aaron Looney, organist; Hamline Church Festival Chorus

**Hamline United Methodist Church**

1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

Tuesday, May 7, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Jeffrey Patry, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.

Basically Baroque: Samuel Backman, organist; *see ad, page 6*

Saturday, May 11, 3:00 p.m.

Concert: Henry Dangerfield, youth organist

**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Saturday, May 11, 7:30 p.m. — *admission charged*

Concert with choir & orchestra: Raymond Johnston, director

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral**

519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

**TCAGO Event: Sunday, May 12, 3:00 p.m.**

**AGO/Quimby RCYO Winners' Recital: Aaron Looney and**

**Trevor Good, organists; see page 4**

Tuesday, May 14, 12:35 p.m.

Tuesday Organ Recitals: Kathrine Handford, organist

**Church of Saint Louis, King of France**

506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Wednesday, May 15, 12:30 p.m.

Noontime Series: Joel Anderson, organist

**St. Olaf Catholic Church**

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

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**Class of 2026:** Richard Gray, Eileen Miller, Melanie Ohnstad

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## Standing Committees

*Chairs listed first*

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**Special Projects:** (chair vacant); Leonard Danek

## Other Committees and Appointments

**Advertising (interim):** [Jeremy Haug](#) 612-578-8058

**Archives:** [Joshua Lindgren](#) (c) 785-906-0418, (h) 952-476-0662;

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**Calendar Coordination / Events Scheduling:** [Michael Barone](#)

(w) 651-290-1539, (h) 651-228-9885

**Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Communications Liaison:**

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Find us on social media:



## 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 there 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](http://www.pipedreams.org) or [www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams](http://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:

Emails are best to [mbarone@mpr.org](mailto:mbarone@mpr.org), and 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.



**Christopher D. Wallace** D.M.A., President/Owner

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