Four TCAGO Events in March

AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists
Saturday, March 9, 9:30 a.m.
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Road 6, Plymouth

Before Bach’s Birthday Bash
Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
All venues in Saint Paul
9:00 a.m.
Summit Center for Arts & Innovation
(formerly St. Paul’s-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church)
1524 Summit Avenue
10:30 a.m.
Saint Thomas More Catholic Community
1079 Summit Avenue
1:00 p.m.
St. Clement’s Episcopal Church
901 Portland Avenue
2:30 p.m.
Unity Church-Unitarian
733 Portland Avenue
4:00 p.m.
The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
797 Summit Avenue

Aaron Tan, 2018 NYACOP Winner
Sunday, March 17, 3:00 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, University of St. Thomas
Soloist Aaron Tan, winner of the 2018 American Guild of Organists Young Artist Competition, will present a concert on the Gabriel Kney tracker-action organ. Free.
University of St. Thomas Chapel
Cleveland and Laurel Aves., Saint Paul

Choir of King’s College, Cambridge
Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. (note time change)
Cathedral of Saint Paul, Saint Paul
The Choir of King’s College, Cambridge, in its last American tour with music director Stephen Cleobury prior to his retirement in September, will present a concert at the Cathedral. Admission event. Tickets are available from etix, or from King’s College, or the Fitzgerald Theatre.

Every Christmas Eve millions of people worldwide tune into A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which is the longest established annual broadcast in history, reaching 90 years in 2018. Additionally, Carols from King’s, a televised
Christmas service also broadcast on Christmas Eve, celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2014.

The Choir exists thanks to King Henry VI who, in founding the College in 1441, envisaged the daily singing of services in its magnificent Chapel, which remains the primary purpose of the Choir’s sixteen choristers, fourteen choral scholars and two organ scholars.

The Choir owes much to the five directors who have maintained its consistently high standards over the course of the last 140 years: A.H. Mann (1876), Boris Ord (1929), David Willcocks (1957), Philip Ledger (1974) and, since 1982, Stephen Cleobury. Since 1870, the choristers have been educated across the river from the College at King’s College School and receive scholarships from King’s College to help pay for their education.

Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul

Dean’s Column
David Jenkins

The Tradition of the (Before) Bach’s Birthday Bash

I remember well my first Bach’s Birthday Bash, March 21, 2009, in St. Mary’s Chapel at the Saint Paul Seminary — my place! It had been very stressful (at least for me) to get the chapel equipped to host a live radio broadcast. The hundred-year-old building did not have a satisfactory phone line, so US West was enlisted to bring the necessary data links into the seminary building from UST’s data center across the street. Then MPR engineers had to do some creative wiring to bring the data lines into the chapel, and to set up the gear needed for a remote broadcast. After all of that preparation, the morning broadcast and the whole day of Bach concerts was a great success, and thus began the tradition of the TCAGO’s co-sponsorship with MPR of the annual observance of J.S. Bach’s birthday.
The BBBB’s have all followed the successful pattern of 2009: four or five hour-long concerts, beginning with TCAGO members and collaborators performing in a live radio broadcast, followed by a procession to nearby sites for the subsequent concerts. The events have been held in over 20 different churches and chapels, along Summit Avenue in Saint Paul, in downtown Minneapolis and nearby Lake of the Isles churches, and in the Como Park neighborhood and Roseville. The idea of procession or pilgrimage adds to the fun of the day. There is something essentially human about celebrating an important event by moving from one place to another – like the St. Patrick’s Day parades in both cities, or Palm Sunday processions, for example. Michael Barone and I recall that March 21, 2009 was an especially nice spring day. Even with snow still on the ground, some folks showed up in shirt sleeves, and some rode bikes to the concerts.

Through the years, collaborations with such groups as the Bach Society, the National Lutheran Choir, The Twin Cities Early Music Festival, and the U of M School of Music, have enriched the day. Although the focus has been on organ music, we have also been treated to performances on piano, various other solo instruments, chamber ensembles, and choirs. It has been especially exciting to experience the talents of young performers. And, of course, the collaboration with the hosting churches has been a significant means for the TCAGO to reach out to the community.

The person who keeps all of this together is our own indefatigable Michael Barone. He is the prime mover in securing the sites, recruiting players, and planning the program. His promo spots on MPR are essential for getting the word out, considerably extending the reach of the TCAGO. Michael informs me that in 2020, Bach’s birthday, March 21, falls on a Saturday. He is already thinking about that program – look for something BIG!

But, let’s not get ahead of ourselves now. Please plan on attending all or some of the Bach Bash concerts this coming March 16. The day opens at 9:00 a.m. at a new site for us – the Summit Center for Arts and Innovation, the former St. Paul’s-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church. We will also get the opportunity to hear the recently-renovated Noack organ at Unity Church-Unitarian, an early modern mechanical-action instrument and an important fixture in our regional organ history. I look forward to seeing you there. Thanks are due not only to Michael, for his huge work in planning and preparation, but also to the hosts, performers, and chapter volunteers who make the day possible.
Notice about Chapter Elections

The Nominating Committee members this year are Pam Carlson (chair), Jennifer Anderson, Linda Armstrong, David Fienen, and Jungjoo Park.

The slate of candidates for chapter officers and the board will be announced in the April Pipenotes. Ballots will be prepared and mailed to eligible voting chapter members during the first week in April. Thank you to Pam and the committee for their service to the chapter.

Mardi Gras Jazz Concert

**Sunday, March 3, 3:00 p.m.**
**Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis**

Christ Church Lutheran seeks to find ways to incorporate its new Dobson pipe organ into the musical life of the community. For this occasion, Dobson’s newest opus will join some of the best jazz musicians in the Twin Cities in a *Mardi Gras* concert. Bill Chouinard, organist at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, is also known as a fine jazz musician. Bill will be featured in a few solo jazz organ pieces, and will play with a jazz ensemble assembled by noted trumpeter, bandleader, and composer Bill Simenson.

During this free concert, a collection will be taken to benefit Our Saviour’s Community Services program, and will fund their work in finding homes for the homeless, and teaching English as a second language.

*Christ Church Lutheran*
3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Gedymin Grubba Organ Recital

**Saturday, March 16, 6:15 p.m.**
**Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Golden Valley**

In 2017, Gedymin Grubba was awarded the Honorary Badge “Deserved For Polish Culture” by the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage. This was in recognition of his work as an international organist, composer, and conductor performing about 100 concerts each year around the world. He frequently conducts master-classes and is invited to be an adjudicator for organ competitions.

Since 1999, Grubba has been the Director of the International Festival of Organ Music at the Cathedral in Pelplin, which is one of the most significant and prestigious cultural events of its kind in Europe. Last year was the 20th year of the Festival. Since 2003, he has served as Chairman of the Promotion of Art Gabriel Fauré Foundation, which organizes about 50 concerts a year.

Free admission. Refreshments and wine will follow the recital.

*Good Shepherd Catholic Church*
145 Jersey Avenue South, Golden Valley
Variations for Lent

**Sunday, March 31, 3:00 p.m.**
**St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, Saint Paul**
Organist Stacie Lightner will present contemplative organ music by Bach, Böhm, Cohen, Pachelbel, Pepping, and Scheidt.

Free-will offering.
**St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church**
100 North Oxford Street, Saint Paul
Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Choir of King’s College, Cambridge
Stephen Cleobury, Music Director
Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul

Sunday, March 31, 3:00 p.m.
*Variations for Lent*
Stacie Lightner, organist
St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
100 Oxford Street N., Saint Paul

April

Tuesday, April 2, 12:35 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Lunchtime Recital
David Briggs, organist
Church of St. Louis, King of France
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No. 6*
David Briggs, organist
Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul

Thursday, April 4, 8:00 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Workshop and masterclass with David Briggs
Boe Chapel
St. Olaf College, Northfield

Friday, April 5, 9:15 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Silent Film Accompaniment for *The General*
David Briggs, organist
Boe Memorial Chapel
St. Olaf College, Northfield

Sunday, April 7, 6:51 p.m.
*Maurice Duruflé Requiem*
Minnesota Compline Choir, Corissa Bussian, cond.
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1935 St. Clair Avenue, Saint Paul

Monday, April 8, 6:00 p.m.
(TCAGO & Sioux Trails Chapter Event)
Masterclass with David Briggs
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Varied repertoire and an improvised symphony
David Briggs, organist
Christ Chapel
Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter

Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
Organ Concert
Dean Billmeyer, organist
Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium
University of Minnesota
84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

May

Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. (TCAGO Event)
Annual Members Recital
Maternity of Mary Catholic Church
1414 N. Dale Street, Saint Paul

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.
Spring Concert: *Light and Dark*
The National Lutheran Choir
Central Lutheran Church
333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis

Tuesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Organ recital
Chelsea Chen, organist
Hamline United Methodist Church
1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

Sunday, May 19, 4:00 p.m.
Festival Choral Evensong with Brass Quartet
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street N., Saint Paul

June

Sunday, June 2 (TCAGO Event)
Members Social
Visit to Skyrock Farm and Carousel Collection
Medina

Saturday, June 8, 6:15 p.m.
Samuel Bachman (University of Oklahoma), organ
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
145 Jersey Avenue South, Golden Valley

Sunday, June 30, 7:00 p.m.
Kit Downes in concert
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 South 8th Street, Minneapolis

July

Tuesday, July 23, 6:15 p.m.
Mateusz Rzewuski, organ
Good Shepherd Catholic Church
145 Jersey Avenue South, Golden Valley

July 28 - August 2
POE in Saint Louis

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**KSJN Radio Broadcasts**

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Pipenotes

Pipenotes is the official publication of the Twin Cities Chapter, 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 Merritt Nequette, editor.

Letters to the Editor

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Mail letters to Merritt Nequette.

2748 Lexington Avenue N., Saint Paul MN 55113

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.

Unfortunately, the former Classical MPR Online Calendar has been terminated, though you can send non-organ-related church music series information directly to your favorite Classical MPR host and cross your fingers.

TCAGO Elected Board

Dean: David Jenkins (h) 651-690-1398, (w) 651-962-5793
Sub Dean: Jacob Benda (c) 612-298-9692, (w) 952-881-8671 ext 318
Treasurer: David Geslin (c) 612-868-7827, (w) 952-582-2927
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Registrar Jayson Rodovsky Enquist (c) 914-649-8044
P.O. Box 16252, Saint Paul, MN, 55116

Chaplain The Rev. John Setterlund 217-828-1038

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Audit: Philip Asgian (h) 651-293-9115, (c) 651-592-4505; Martin Stachniak
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Chapter Website - www.tcago.org
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Facebook - facebook.com/twincitiesAGO