



TCAGO MEMBERS RECITAL 2019

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

Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, Saint Paul

Members of the TCAGO will play a recital on the 1977 Casavant organ.

Performers in program order:

Jane Nienaber, Scott Turkington, Jennifer Anderson, Evelyn Rohrbach, Adrian Volovets, Mark Overman, David Lim, Stephen Self, Katie Moss, Dorothy Williams, Jacob Benda and Jennifer Wildeson, organ and violin, and Harrison Lawrence.

Composers in program order:

Dieterich Buxtehude, Tyler Pimm, Arvo Pärt, Heinrich Scheidemann, J.S. Bach, Christian Heinrich Rinck, Jean-Jacques Grunenwald, Jeff Enns, Hugo Distler, Johann Philipp Kirnberger, David Bednall, and Georg Böhm.

The compositions by Jeff Enns and Tyler Pimm were the First and Second-prize winners, respectively, in the 2018 TCAGO Composition Competition.

A reception will follow the recital. All are welcome to this free event! Information about the performers is available on the TCAGO [website](#).

[Maternity of Mary Catholic Church](#)
1414 North Dale Street, Saint Paul

Dean's Column

David Jenkins

Notre Dame Disaster

I met Johann Vexo, choir organist at Notre Dame Cathedral, when the University of St. Thomas hosted him for a concert last fall. He considers his service there to be a privilege. We talked at length about his work, and his life as a French cathedral organist. His accompaniment of cathedral masses is almost entirely improvised, and he must also watch video screens to coordinate timings with the organist a couple hundred yards away on the Grand Organ. Now we learn that Johann was the one playing for evening mass when the fire alarms went off in the Cathedral. You may have seen or heard his interviews, which received extensive play in print and radio media. When the alarm sounded, he said he and others could not believe it was a real fire. After he got home, he was stunned to learn that it was the real thing, and he went back to watch the nightmare.



It would be hard for me to add much to the flood of media commentary since news of the fire emerged. We musicians can relate to Victor Hugo's often-quoted description of the profound beauty of Notre Dame Cathedral: "A vast symphony in stone...the colossal work of a man and of a nation, combining

Chapter Events 2018-2019

Sunday, September 23

Celebration of Michael Barone's 35th Anniversary of *Pipedreams* Members Dinner and Annual Meeting

Friday/Saturday, October 12/13

Celebration of newly-restored Aeolian-Skinner organ in Northrop Auditorium

Saturday, October 13

Introduction to the Northrop Organ

Saturday, November 10

350th Anniversary of François Couperin

Tuesday, December 4

Nathan Laube at Northrop Auditorium

Saturday, January 26

Winter Workshop

Sunday, February 10

Daniel Roth, organist

Saturday, February 23

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

Saturday, March 9

AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists

Saturday, March 16

Before Bach's Birthday Bash

Thursday, March 28

Choir of King's College, Cambridge

April 2, 4, 5, 8, 9

David Briggs Visits Minnesota

Friday, May 3

Annual Members Recital

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unity with complexity..." Indeed, this great edifice is a lyrical interplay of forms, arching lines, symmetries, complexities – certainly matched only by the great symphonic works of say, Beethoven. Furthermore, the architecture of the Cathedral, like that of the best sacred music, is sacramental. It points like an icon to the presence of God, not merely when regarded as an empty edifice, but even more when animated by the faithful at worship. While we may contrast the permanence of a solid stone cathedral with the impermanence of a musical performance, the fire has shown us the transitory, elusive, and fragile nature of all art.

Thankfully, it appears that the Cathedral, and its Grand Organ, can be saved, and they will rise once again to inspire us all. I sent Johann a message of sympathy when I heard the news, expressing my solidarity with him in a difficult time. I am expecting that we as a chapter will want to join together to support and encourage our Notre Dame Cathedral organist colleagues and the larger communities affected. If you have concrete ideas about how we might best do this, please get in touch with me.

I have noticed on the blogosphere that there are already some voices decrying all the attention on rebuilding Notre Dame Cathedral, when at the same time Puerto Rico is still in shambles after Hurricane Maria, and Flint still does not have clean water. The Catholic Church – and certainly other denominations – teach that the social mission of the church is rooted in and strengthened by its spiritual life. I pray that the beauty of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, as a proclamation of God's love, will continue to inspire us to love one another.

Our Common Life

I borrowed the title of this section from my predecessor, Paul Westermeyer. He always guided our chapter with pastoral care, and with a desire to build up our community. We have two vacant offices in our chapter leadership – Hospitality chair, and Membership coordinator. Both of these positions are important for building up our community, and for helping us carry out our mission. I am asking if anyone would consider volunteering for one or the other.

Bjorn Gustafson ably filled the role of hospitality chair until stepping down last summer. The hospitality committee helps host chapter events by arranging for greeters, and working with the program committee to provide other support functions such as registration and refreshments. Judy Campen recently resigned as membership coordinator, and I'm grateful for her service on behalf of the chapter. That job description is very open-ended, but provides an opportunity for some creative, out-going person to coordinate our efforts to retain and recruit members. Please contact me if you would like more information about these two posts.

Convention update

A quick note on planning for our 2021 regional convention. The dates will be July 4-7, 2021, and the convention



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will be headquartered at the Minneapolis Hilton Downtown on Marquette Avenue. We are in the process of filling out the rest of the steering committee, and program planning will begin this coming summer. In a month or two we will be sending a survey to all members to ask for your input on events, workshops, venues and other aspects of the convention – and to give you an opportunity to volunteer for one of the convention committees. Mark your calendars now for 2021!

National Lutheran Choir's *Light and Dark*

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

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

So often a shroud of darkness forms around those living under an iron fist, but music is the light that flickers, maintains, and grows despite the circumstances.

National Lutheran Choir's Spring Concert *Light and Dark* explores the music of equatorial areas and the dark north of Europe, including selections from Einojunhani Rautavaara's seminal work *Vigilia*, Russian favorites by Rachmaninoff, Gretchaninoff, and Chesnokoff, a *cappella* choral music from Cuba's leading classical voice Leo Brouwer, and sacred works from Finland, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Influenced by each culture's unique climate – where cold night breeds mystery and the warm sun imbues a particular colorfulness – music fills the role of storytelling in a unique and fascinating way.

A post-concert reception will celebrate this last concert of NLC's 2018-2019 season with all National Lutheran Choir singers, patrons, and friends. Ticket information is available at [NLCA](#) or call 612-722-2301.

[Central Lutheran Church](#)

333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis

Chelsea Chen Recital

Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.

Hamline United Methodist Church, Saint Paul

Chelsea Chen will play a recital on the Casavant organ at Hamline Methodist Church. Chelsea's concert concludes the church's arts series for the year.

Free-will offering, plenty of free parking.

[Hamline United Methodist Church](#)

1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

Honoring Melanie Ohnstad

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Phil Asgjan

TCAGO joins Westminster to recognize Melanie Ohnstad, who has served our Chapter, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the larger Twin Cities musical community in many ways over her professional career. She was Chapter Dean during the time we last hosted the national AGO



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convention in 2008, and was instrumental in establishing the *PipeWorks* program in the Twin Cities.

At the end of May, Melanie will retire as Minister of Music and the Arts/Organist at Westminster – a role she has held for nearly 24 years. On Friday, May 17, in the Westminster Sanctuary, several TCAGO organists will collaborate with Melanie, along with the current and former Westminster Choir members, and singers from other congregations where Melanie has worked, in a service of Evensong followed by a reception in Westminster Hall.



Parking is available, free of charge, in the underground ramp at Westminster; enter from Alice Rainville Place (formerly 13th Street).

For those who are able to attend Westminster on Sunday morning, May 19, the recognition continues with the congregation in worship. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. with an extended prelude featuring several guest musicians and Melanie, and will conclude with a newly-commissioned hymn concertata by Tom Trenney on the hymn *Go forth for God; go to the world in peace* (hymn tune *Litton*), featuring the Westminster Choir and Melanie on organ. A reception follows in Westminster Hall.

[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#)
1200 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis

In Memoriam: Marilyn Mason

Marilyn Mason, professor *emerita* of organ, died on April 4 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the age of 93. Mason's extensive career as performer, lecturer, adjudicator, and



teacher took her throughout the world, at one point performing more than 30 recitals per year. During one sabbatical

leave from her duties at U-M, Mason's performing career took her to venues on five continents. She was an adjudicator in nearly every major organ competition in the world. Mason also served as a church musician for various denominations, including 27 years as organist at First Congregational Church in Ann Arbor. Mason's charismatic personality, coupled with her depth of experience and wealth of knowledge, made her one of the most sought-after organ and sacred music pedagogues of her time.

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She was honored in 1988 as the “Performer of the Year” by the New York Chapter of the AGO. Her career as a performer afforded her the opportunity to present the breadth of the organ canon, from the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach to the more than 70 new works she commissioned from many of the leading composers of the 20th century.

A Symphony in Stone: Notre-Dame de Paris

When Victor Hugo published his novel, *Notre-Dame de Paris*, in 1831, the title did not include “The Hunchback.” The book was not intended to be the story of a person, but rather the story of a great French monument (which was in need of repair after the Revolution). He defined the cathedral with a musical term – “symphony in stone.” Music has been, and still is, a significant part of the cathedral’s legacy. For me, as a musicologist with a particular interest in medieval music, its prominence occurs even before the building is completed – with Leonin, Perotin, and the beginnings of polyphony. And, for organists, it often represents a pinnacle of organ-building, and certainly of the French Romantic style of composition.



I have been to Notre-Dame on a number of occasions – for services and recitals. (For organists who might feel somewhat dis-encharmed by church staff, on one Saturday afternoon, I had been at the afternoon mass, and the postlude, improvised of course, was going at some length. The ushers, whose watches told them it was time to close up shop, hustled everyone out the doors, the lights went out, and the music continued – to be heard somewhat less distinctly – on the esplanade.)

When I heard a report about the fire on April 15, it brought back many memories, and a certain amount of fear that an 850+-year-old structure would probably never be seen again. However, there is some survival news. Like our Minnesota tornadoes, many things are totally damaged, and some very unlikely things are virtually untouched. The pulpit in the sanctuary, very close to the center of the blaze, is in relatively good shape – bent, but not burned. A statue, attached to a pillar near the west doors, stands untouched with burned rubble covering the floor. The *grand orgue* is apparently in a very good state.

I accumulated a number of pictures from various sources, and asked some individuals for permission to include their material for this issue.

–The editor

Michael Barone

The history of music at Notre Dame Cathedral dates back to the building’s earliest days. The first ‘counterpoint’ was penned by the resident musicians Leonin and Perotin in the 12th and early 13th centuries. The first organ, a swal-

lows-nest installation under a window in the nave, was reported around 1330.

Though preceded by earlier instruments in the west-end location from as early as 1440, the main organ that exists today in the rear gallery was completed in 1868 by Aristide Cavallé-Coll, the most famous organ builder in France in the 19th century...whose instruments can be found in many churches throughout the country (and beyond). The case, however, was recycled from the instrument of c1730 by François Thierry, which was expanded in 1783 by François-Henri Clicquot. A full history of the organs of Notre Dame can be found [online](#).



Louis Vierne (1870-1937) earned the title of organist at Notre Dame beginning in 1900, and composed six organ symphonies, four books of Fantasy Pieces, a Mass for Two Organs and Choir, and much else during his tenure as *titulaire* at the Cathedral. He died at the original console of the instrument in the midst of a recital. Though that original console was eventually replaced by a more modern unit, it had been retained for its historic value in a room adjacent

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to the organ gallery. One hopes that it, too, survived the recent fire.

Pierre Cochereau (1924-1984), organist at Notre Dame in the post-war period, generated worldwide acclaim because of his improvisations, both during service and in concerts. Upon his death, it was decided to split the position of *titulaire* among three players, who today are Olivier Latry, Vincent Dubois, and Philippe Lefebvre. Latry and Dubois have performed in concert here in the Twin Cities...Dubois just a year ago at the University of St. Thomas, and Latry during the re-inauguration of the organ at the Cathedral of Saint Paul several years back. Johann Vexo, *titulaire* of the smaller Choir Organ (also originally by Cavaillé-Coll) on the ground floor at the front of the church (destroyed in the fire), played at the University of St. Thomas just this past winter. Each of these men has an international reputation as recitalist, and each tours widely.

The tradition of organ music and organists at Notre Dame, particularly beginning with Vierne, is celebrated worldwide. The loss of the organ of Vierne and Cochereau would have been beyond comprehension, as no replacement could possibly possess the same compelling history. By the greatest good fortune, it appears that the organ has been spared.

Excerpt from a message to Michael Barone from Olivier Latry on the day after the fire.

"Despite all the damage in the Cathedral, the organ miraculously escaped the flames, as well as the water supposed to extinguish them. It is very dusty, but will continue to provide joy to us as soon as the building is restored. When? No one knows yet. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (John, 2). It will surely take more time in Notre-Dame, but I still live with great confidence and hope."

Other sources

In an interview on Easter Sunday on NPR with Lulu Garcia-Navarro, Olivier Latry pointed out that the ordinary way to remove the organ was by a pulley system attached to the roof that is no longer there.

Another source reported very little water damage to the case and wind chests, since a masonry covering over the organ gallery diverted most of the water away, allowing only two puddles of water on the floor.

Very encouraging news sent to Michael Barone on April 23

Mario d'Amico Holzmann, who now works for the Pascal Quoirin shop, confirmed this information. Quoirin and Bertrand Cattiaux were responsible for the most recent repair/restoration of the Notre-Dame organ, and the installation of the newest console. This report from d'Amico Holzmann, represents investigation on this date by Pascal Quoirin on-site:

"Very good news from the great organ of Notre Dame. After two hours of examination of the instrumental part, I did not notice any damage that could have been caused by the fire. Simply dust – a clean, light-brown dust a bit

like sand – non-sticky, a dry dust. There was a thermometer with memory inside the instrument. It indicates a temperature of 17 degrees (62.5 F) the day of the fire. So there was no degradation of the piping and all the electronic components.

"In a fortnight we will be able to put the organ back in order to be able to make a more detailed diagnosis, in particular on the state of the *sommiers* (wind chests). But frankly, I am very optimistic. The ideal will be to confine the organ in a well-sealed and air-conditioned cage. Then do the dusting, rank by rank, and play the organ regularly. And finally, dismantle the confinement when the vault will be rebuilt, and re-inaugurate it."

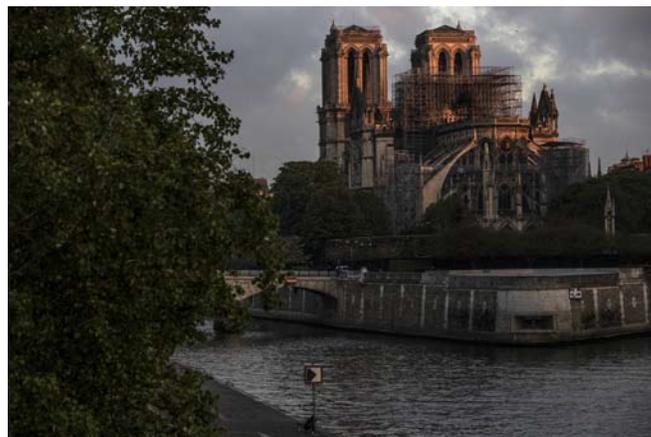
Jack Mohlenhoff

is the Communications Coordinator for the South Dakota AGO and wrote a reflection entitled *Requiem for a Cathedral* for their newsletter *Prairie Pipings* on the day after the fire. This is an excerpt:

"The news of the fire at The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris caught me completely off guard. Even more than the obvious tragedy of the disaster, I was confused at the emotions I was experiencing. I've never been to Notre Dame - Paris. I found myself needing some time to process and reflect.

"Much music that I love and have played, sung and conducted had its origins or connections there. Musicians that I know have been profoundly influenced by their experiences there. The Cathedral has been witness to so much history that I have studied – seemingly unchanged and unchanging amid the turbulence of the world around it.

"A comment from one of the commentators struck me. She observed that, no matter what your beliefs may be – Catholic, Christian, non-Christian or nothing at all – you cannot enter that space without knowing the presence of something greater than yourself. I realized again that that is the gift of art – to take us beyond ourselves – to inspire us to think, to reach out, to reconsider, or simply to stop for a moment in wonder. The great cathedrals were created as acts of devotion, perhaps out of a sense of spiritual obligation, but the lasting result is one of witness to that which is greater than any person, society, denomination or even religious belief."



April 17, 2019

Calendar of Events

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 7, 7:30 p.m.

Organ recital
 Chelsea Chen, organist
 Hamline United Methodist Church
 1514 Englewood Avenue, Saint Paul

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

Honoring Melanie Ohnstad
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 1200 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis

Saturday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.

Pipedreams Scholarship Auditions
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
 500 Blake Road South, Edina

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

Wednesday, July 10, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital
 Joanne Rodland
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 500 Third St. West, Northfield

Wednesday, July 17, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital
 Brian Carson
 Boe Chapel
 St. Olaf College, Northfield

Tuesday, July 23, 6:15 p.m.

Mateusz Rzewuski, organ
 Good Shepherd Catholic Church
 145 Jersey Avenue South, Golden Valley

Wednesday, July 24, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital
 Noah Klein
 United Methodist Church
 1401 S. Maple St., Northfield

July 28 - August 2

POE in Saint Louis

Wednesday, July 31, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital
 Bill Peterson (Pomona College, CA)
 All Saints Episcopal Church
 419 Washington St., Northfield

August

Wednesday, August 7, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital
 Stephen May
 United Methodist Church
 1401 S. Maple St., Northfield

Wednesday, August 14, 12:15 p.m.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recital
 Janean Hall & Larry Archbold
 Bethel Lutheran Church
 1321 North Avenue, Northfield

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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.