Chapter Events 2022–2023

Sunday, September 25
Opening Event: Gala Concert and Member Dinner
St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Members of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO present a Gala Concert featuring the 108-rank 1929 Casavant/2001 Schantz pipe organ.

Michael Barone will host and provide commentary between the performers. The concert is free and open to all. The annual TCAGO member dinner, for members and their guests only, will follow the concert in the beautiful new Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall. A buffet-style dinner, catered by the Lake Elmo Inn, will cost $35 with wine and $30 without wine for each member and guest. Additionally, there will be an installation of officers and a special program. Registration and payment required for only the TCAGO member dinner. Please register for the dinner by September 18, 2022: register online at TCAGO.org or contact Jeremy.Haug@mountcalvary.org, 612-578-8058. The concert is free and open to all.

Performing will be Samuel Backman; Bill Chouinard; Carolyn Diamond, piano; Isaac Drewes; Charles Echols; Ju Young Lee; Stacie Lightner and Donna Hryniewicki, flute; Sarah Palmer; Kris Rizzotto; Emily Roth; Brenda Sevcik; and Noah Strom.

The composers featured are Miles Davis, Emma Lou Diemer, Herbert Howells, David N. Johnson, Alvars Kalējs, Olivier Messiaen, Peter Planyavsky, Brenda Portman, Maurice Ravel, James H. Rogers, Guy Weitz, and Pietro Yon.

Shoes Needed for Organ Student
Do you have a used pair of men’s organ shoes in good shape? Shoes in size 8 or 8½ medium are requested for an enthusiastic beginning organ student, 11 years old, in Southeastern Minnesota. Please contact Eileen Nelson Ness at 507-383-7629 or eileenness@live.com
I was fortunate to attend the 2022 National Convention of the AGO, held July 3–7 in Seattle. The convention’s theme, “The Well-Tempered Future,” was more than just a clever reference to historical tuning practices. It was, I’m sure, an intentional play on the various meanings of the word. At first glance it might refer to a keyboard instrument tuned so that it plays well in all keys. However, well-tempered can also mean “good-natured.” Seattle is certainly a “good-natured” place in many ways—its beautiful natural surroundings are matched by beautiful organs in great settings, a vibrant music and arts culture, and good-natured hospitality.

“Well-tempered” can also describe something that has been treated to develop a desirable hardness, like a tempered steel sword. Our recent struggles in our professions and institutions have tempered or strengthened us to face future challenges with new energy and resolve. A spirit of relief, and a resolve to enjoy a better future certainly permeated the convention. We heard many comments, both in official presentations or events, and in informal conversations, expressing the joy of being able to gather together again as a community of organ lovers, after the past two difficult years.

While much of the convention programming celebrated a new future for the AGO after two years of shutdown, there were also performances that enabled us to experience a kind of emotional release or spiritual cleansing in the face of the personal losses and social unrest of 2020 and 2021. One might say that the pleasure of being together to enjoy great organs and music, was tempered by music that spoke to grief and loss, and a yearning for social justice.

The convention’s closing concert at Benaroya Hall exemplified in microcosm the kind of joy tempered by sadness that marked the convention programming overall. The first half of the concert contrasted two pieces—a new composition for organ and amplified voice by Rashaan Allwood in homage to victims of oppression—with a new choral setting of the Frederick Lehman text “The Love of God,” extolling the eternal and all-reconciling love of God. The first half closed with a powerful performance of James MacMillan’s “Cantos Sagrados,” a major choral work setting three challenging poems dealing with political repression in Latin America in juxtaposition with traditional religious texts. The second half of the program, with the Auburn Symphony Orchestra, drew us up, dreamlike, into Jacob’s heavenly vision, with a performance of “Jacob’s Ladder,” a piece by Judith Bingham commissioned by the AGO for the 2008 national convention in the Twin Cities. We then landed squarely back on earth with a lively and engaging performance by Renée Louprette of David Briggs’ Concerto for Organ, Strings, Harp, and Percussion. The concerto, with its fond homages to Poulenc and its stirring Hollywood ending, felt like a fitting conclusion to a full and inspiring week of music and community celebration.

In Seattle I was reminded of how proud we should all be of the contributions of TCAGO chapter members and our local musicians to the success of the convention and to the mission of the AGO. I apologize to anyone I have forgotten to mention here!

Sarah Palmer, a junior at St. Olaf College studying with Catherine Rodland, performed in one of the Rising Stars concerts. Sarah was the first-place winner in our 2021 regional NYACOP.

Mark Sedio’s commissioned setting of Psalm 23, “Nada me falta,” was performed at A Festival of Psalms at Bellevue Presbyterian Church. The work was dedicated to the memory of Norma Aamodt-Nelson, who served as an editor at Augsburg Fortress from 1993 to 2020.

Chris Stroh, former TCAGO board member, former organist of the Basilica of Saint Mary, and Saint John’s graduate, played the organ for a luminous, inspiring Vespers service at St. James Cathedral.

Christopher Ganza, choir director and organist of the Cathedral of Saint Paul, was a semifinalist in the National...
Competition in Organ Improvisation. It takes a lot of work to get to this competition. Hats off to Chris!

Carol E. Barnett was named the AGO Distinguished Composer of 2022. Her commissioned piece for organ and horn, “Summer 2020,” was premiered by Alcee Chriss, organ, and John Turman, horn. Ms. Barnett, a widely performed Minnesota composer and pillar of our local music scene, is a charter member of the American Composers Forum, taught at Augsburg College, and was composer in residence for the Dale Warland Singers.

Kathy Handford serves on the NYACOP national committee. This group works long hours to ensure that the competition is fair, runs smoothly, and that the competitors have a good experience.

Kris Rizzotto is on the national Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support. Ongoing member engagement and support is critical to the long-term health of the AGO.

Stephen Self serves as a regional coordinator for the AGO Certification program, a job that involves one-on-one work with candidates for the various certificate levels.

Mary Newton, our energetic chapter competitions coordinator and newly elected board member, was installed as the new Councilor for the North Central Region. Mary also serves on the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity.

And, of course, our own Michael Barone is an indefatigable supporter of the AGO and all organists—locally, regionally, and nationally. One recent example: two Pipedreams programs this year, “The AGO in Seattle,” Parts I and II, presented memorable performances from the 2000 Seattle national convention, as an appetizing prelude to this year’s convention.

It is my honor to serve as your dean once again, and I am grateful for all the variety of gifts and dedication that you all bring to the TCAGO.

A Word from Our Chaplain

CHAPLAIN JOHN SETTERLUND

During a trip to Palestine this summer I discovered a new form of music, one I am still trying to analyze in my mind. I was staying for ten days at the home of friends, a few miles north of Ramallah. High on a ridge, we looked out over the village and a refugee camp on the opposite side of the valley.

Several times each day Islam’s call to prayer goes out to the world, the chanted verses of the Quran sung from the minarets of, in this case, at least three different mosques. Christians sometimes find these “songs” to be intrusive or disturbing. Although I don’t understand their words, over the years I have found them to be somewhat consoling. Would that we could summon our people to pray once a day!

In olden times these prayer-calls were sung by an individual at each mosque; today a single recorded voice links all the mosques together. From where I listened, this perfect unison became glorious polyphony, whether by delayed signals to the several sites or by the varying distances. Some of the “voices” were probably echoes off the many mountains. The spacing of the first and second entries was one to two seconds, and the effect was especially glorious when the chant melody began with a major or minor triad. It reminded me of Renaissance motets, or maybe those quirky canons of Bach for four or more voices. I needed a musicologist nearby.

All this has encouraged me to listen for greater harmonies in the world around me, and to continue supporting the efforts of those musicians who pray and work for beauty and peace.

Special Guest at PODD 2023

PHIL ASGIAN

Save the date for an exceptional Pipe Organ Discovery Day in 2023. On Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., our Chapter will host special guest, Isabelle Demers (McGill University, Montréal), with the participation of the Young Women Organists Cohort. This activity is an invitation to young keyboard players to introduce them to the pipe organ with demonstrations and hands-on access to instruments by Van Daalen, Bedient, and Æolian-Skinner in facilities at Ferguson Hall (West Bank) and Northrop (main campus) at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Watch for
Summer Camp Features the Organ

PHIL ASGIAN

TCAGO Education Committee member Phil Asgian and North Central Regional Councillor Mary Newton presented a program on the pipe organ at the music camp at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Howard Lake, in July 2022. The students watched videos about the different types of organs, organ composers, and the basic components of the organ. In these photos, Phil is showing some pipes and other features of the organ.

Read about Pipedreams in Choir & Organ

In a previous issue of Pipenotes, readers were told of an article by Matthew Power published earlier this year in Choir & Organ, featuring Michael Barone and his radio program, Pipedreams. This year is its 40th anniversary on national public radio airwaves. The article is now available to read online without a subscription, thanks to the publisher of Choir & Organ and Philip Brunelle’s efforts.

Find out:
• what Michael’s first LP was
• how many seconds of reverb St. John’s Abbey has
• how each weekly show is made
• which National AGO convention concert was broadcast live on air (hint: before cell phones and laptops!)

Find the article online; if you are unable to access it, contact the editor of Pipenotes.

Pipedreams Scholarship Audition

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
500 Blake Road South, Hopkins
Please note: the address may say ‘Edina’

High school students beginning or continuing their organ studies and adults returning to or continuing their studies may audition for scholarships for further organ study. Requirements and registration forms are available at the TCAGO website. For more information, contact Steve Gentile, chair, at: genhen70@msn.com.

The last winner was Sheila Loger, right, organist at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, Saint Paul. She is a student of Steve Gentile. Teachers and students are strongly encouraged to consider this wonderful opportunity.

Contributions to this scholarship fund can be made by going to the Giving page at the TCAGO website.

Stephen Hamilton

2022–2023 Season

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Opening Series Event (All Bach) Church of St. Louis, King of France Saint Paul, Minnesota</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
<td>Lajolla Presbyterian Church Lajolla, California</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Elim Lutheran Church Robbinsdale, Minnesota with Greg Millerin, flutist</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Sun City West, Arizona</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Dupré: Le Chemin de la Croix Nancy Wade, narrator First United Church of Christ Boulder, Colorado</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Duruflé: Requiem Dr. Stephen Kingsbury, conductor First Lutheran Church Marshall, Minnesota</td>
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Dr. Stephen Hamilton
s.hamilton@prodigy.net • cell: 212-289-0615
www.stephenjonhamilton.com

further details including advance registration. Special thanks to colleagues Dean Billmeyer and the program team at Northrop for helping make this program happen.
At the American Choral Directors Association Gala on August 4, 2022, held at St. John’s University, Collegeville, Maria Bucka was honored with the Advocate for Choral Excellence (ACE) Award. These awards are given annually by ACDA of Minnesota to people who have been exceptional promoters/supporters of the choral art in Minnesota. Each of the seven districts of ACDA of Minnesota can make an award. Maria recently retired as Organist-Director of Music at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis where she served for 45 years. Founder of the Bethlehem Music Series, now celebrating its 40th year anniversary, Maria continues as the Artistic Director. She was Dean of TCAGO from 1991–1995.

The following tribute was given by David Mennicke, choral director at Bethlehem Lutheran and Concordia University.

Maria Bucka—consummate church musician, stellar organist, visionary administrator, and collegial leader—has made significant contributions to the musical life of the Twin Cities for over 60 years. Personally, Maria Bucka was my colleague at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis since 1996, serving as the Director of Music, organist, and Chorale accompanist for our 25 years of ministry together.

Maria's musical leadership goes back to high school, where she sang with and accompanied the choirs at Minnehaha Academy—along with fellow student Philip Brunelle and conductor Harry Opel—two of ACDA’s F. Melius award winners. She began playing organ in church services at the age of 14 (finally getting paid at age 16)—a time when she was taking organ lessons from the world-renowned Paul Manz.

Her leadership continued in college at the University of Minnesota, where she earned a double major in piano (Bernhard Weiser teacher) and organ (Daniel Chorzempa and Heinrich Fleischer). She was the accompanist for the University of Minnesota Chorus all four years.

Her first church job, at the age of 16, was at Hope Presbyterian Church in Richfield. She returned to her Lutheran roots when she became the organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis in 1977, eventually becoming the Coordinator and then Director of Music for this large congregation. There she planned worship, coordinated all music, played organ, and oversaw a program of six choirs and other small ensembles. In 1984, she established a choral school to train young choristers, continuing to 2007. She edited and produced two “Song of Bethlehem” Hymnal Supplements. She founded the Bethlehem Music Series in 1982, the only free concert series of its kind in the Twin Cities that features internationally renowned artists—including stellar choirs such as Chanticleer, Cantus, the American Boychoir, and Voces8. Highly regarded in her professional community, she served as the Dean of the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists, revitalizing the membership and activity of that group.

Maria was the accompanist for the Bethlehem Senior Choir (now Chorale), working with Minnesota conductors Curt Hansen (advisory), Bill Antholz, Dick Sieber, Craig Arnold, Larry Fleming, and Gordon Olson (yes, that’s three more FMC winners in that list!). It has been my honor and privilege to conduct that ensemble with her collaboration since 1996. She is an exceptional musician. I never had to think about whether an accompaniment would be too difficult, as I knew that...
she would have it in hand before our first rehearsal. She is wonderfully astute at following any change of tempo and dynamics. Her outstanding ear led her to support vocal parts as needed. Her keen musicianship set a lofty bar for me to reach—helping me to never settle for less than the group’s best. I grew immeasurably as a musician from our time together.

All of these musical heights would have been enough, but Maria brings to her work and life an exemplary servant heart. She made it possible for me—and my choral colleagues at Bethlehem—to make beautiful, Gospel-led music with great people. She did this not only by performing quality music, but by keen administrative acumen, unfailing support to all of the choral/ensemble directors, and the willingness to do all the nitty-gritty tasks necessary for this large program to function—always with a self-less spirit. She cares deeply for—no, loves—all of the Bethlehem community—a family that was blessed by her 45 years of ministry there. On their behalf, and all of those whom you have touched in your rich and full life and career, we are pleased to present you with ACDA of Minnesota’s Advocate for Choral Excellence Award.

If you are looking for materials to introduce students to the organ, check out these lessons and videos. Special thanks to the educational team at YourClassical MPR for the great work on these videos.

**Wolfgang Rübsam in Concert**

**Saturday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**The Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas**

**University of St. Thomas**

**Cleveland Avenue at Ashland, Saint Paul**

Internationally acclaimed organist Wolfgang Rübsam presents an all-Bach concert, including his new transcription of the entire Orchestral Suite No. 2 in b (BWV 1067), to open the Chapel Arts Series playing on the Gabriel Kney tracker-action pipe organ in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of St. Thomas.

**Music at Elim**

**Sunday, October 16, 3:00 p.m.**

**Elim Lutheran Church**

**3978 West Broadway Avenue, Robbinsdale**

“Music at Elim Lutheran Church” presents concert organist Stephen Hamilton and flutist Greg Milliren in concert. The program includes solo organ compositions by Jehan Alain, a Baroque concerto by Walther, chorale preludes by Kenton Coe, and the Bach Prelude and Fugue in C Minor. Milliren and Hamilton will perform the Jehan Alain Three Flute Pieces for Organ and Flute, and J.S. Bach’s Flute Sonata in E Minor. Dr. Hamilton is an extremely active internationally acclaimed recitalist and teacher. Mr. Milliren, associate principal flutist of the Minnesota Orchestra since 2009, performs nationally and is heard live in Orchestra concerts frequently broadcast throughout the world.

The concert is open to the public with no admission charge. Contact the church at 763-537-8481 for more information.
VocalEssence, Fanny, and Felix
Saturday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.
Benson Great Hall, Bethel University
3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

VocalEssence will feature compositions by siblings Felix Mendelssohn and Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel side by side in a single program, The Mendelssohns. The concert features the VocalEssence Chorus and Ensemble Singers, the diverse youth choir VocalEssence Singers Of This Age, tenor Nicholas Chalmers, soprano Maria Jette, pianist Mary Jo Gothmann, and a special High School Festival Choir, with Philip Brunelle and G. Phillip Shoultz, III, conducting.

“After a two-year delay caused by the pandemic, we are thrilled to finally perform the Mendelssohns program,” said VocalEssence artistic director Philip Brunelle. “Both Felix and Fanny were talented composers and we are delighted to have the opportunity to highlight the work of both these creative geniuses.”

“We are excited that we will hold an all-day festival on Saturday, October 15 at Bethel University for area high school singers where they will rehearse and learn about the music of Fanny and Felix,” said associate artistic director G. Phillip Shoultz, III. “The concert will feature the festival choir combined with our own youth choir, VocalEssence Singers Of This Age—the addition of these fresh voices absolutely enhances the work of these extraordinarily talented composers.”

While musical talent ran in the family, and both Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn were celebrated in their home country of Germany as performing and composing child prodigies in the early 1800s, only younger brother Felix’s skills resulted in educational opportunities and parental support for a career in music. Nevertheless, Fanny persisted, continuing composing into adulthood, and Felix returned to her again and again for musical counsel. The two shared an artistic bond that transcended familial camaraderie and lasted until their untimely deaths, just six months apart.

Tickets are priced between $25 and $45. VocalEssence will continue to offer opportunities for people to access digital content that will be released throughout the season. All digital releases will be free and available to all on the VocalEssence website.

Northrop Silent Film Series

From rarely seen films of feminist protest that explode in slapstick rebellion, to sci-fi and horror classics, Northrop’s new Silent Films series features live organ accompaniment.

The Phantom of the Opera
Sunday, October 2, 3:00 p.m. CT
In-person / Livestream / On-demand
Improvising in plain sight on Northrop’s historic Æolian-Skinner Opus 892 pipe organ,

Wes A. Huisinga
Oboe, English Horn and Oboe d’Amore
612-872-9838 wahuisingsa@hotmail.com
available for solo and accompanimental service playing
Aaron David Miller provides the soundtrack to this 1925 adventure-filled horror film about the infamous organist (Lon Chaney) who lurks beneath an opera house while attempting to make the woman he loves a star.

**Hysteria, Hypnosis, and Hallucination**  
Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. CT  
In-person / Livestream / On-demand  
At the beginning of the 20th century, early filmmakers were frequently compared to hypnotists. You’ll be mesmerized by these six rarely-seen silent films set to live, original music by Dreamland Faces, featuring Molly Raben on the pipe organ—a must-see for film buffs, music lovers, and the historically curious.

**Fritz Lang’s Metropolis**  
Sunday, March 19, 3:00 p.m. CT  
In-person / Livestream / On-demand  
Using the vast tonal resources of the pipe organ, virtuoso Peter Richard Conte provides fully improvised accompaniment to Fritz Lang’s “chilling, art-deco fantasia” (*CultureVulture*) and silent film sci-fi classic, *Metropolis*.

**Cinema’s First Nasty Women**  
Tuesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. CT  
In-person / Livestream / On-demand  
What a find! Catch this rare showing of feminist silent films that spotlight female rebellion, cross-dressing, gender burlesque, and slapstick comedy—all set to live, original music by Dreamland Faces with dynamic colorings from the pipe organ.

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TCAGO & Members’ Events Calendar

**SEPTEMBER**

Tuesday, September 13, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals: Stephen Hamilton, organist  
**Church of St. Louis, King of France**  
506 Cedar Street, Saint Paul

Sunday, September 18, 2:30 p.m.
Raymond Johnston, organist  
**St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral**  
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

**Sunday, September 25, 3:00 p.m. (TCAGO Event)**
Gala Concert & Member Dinner  
**St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church**  
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomdei

Tuesday, September 27, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals: Joseph Trucano, organist  
**Church of St. Louis, King of France**

**OCTOBER**

Tuesday, October 4, 12:35 p.m.
Tuesday Organ Recitals: Ju Young Lee, organist  
**Church of St. Louis, King of France**

**Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. to noon (TCAGO Event)**
Workshop/Masterclass with Bruce Neswick  
**Both Neswick events at Christ Church Lutheran (ELCA)**  
3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis

**Saturday, October 15, 10:00 a.m. (TCAGO Event)**
Pipedreams Student Scholarship Audition  
**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
500 Blake Road South, Hopkins

Wednesday, October 19, 12:30 p.m.
Noontime Series: Emily Roth, organist  
**St. Olaf Catholic Church**  
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Monday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.
Kathrine Handford, organist; Douglas Carlson, Charles Lazarus, trumpeters  
**The Church of Saint Mark**  
2001 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul

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David J Geslin CPA

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Sub Dean: Kathrine Handford
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Class of 2024: Isaac Drewes, Kristina Langlois
Class of 2025: Samuel Holmberg, Ju Young Lee, Mary Newton

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111 Marquette Ave. S., Apt. 2704, Minneapolis, MN 55401-2036

Chaplain: The Rev. John Setterlund 217-828-1038

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Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and Communications Liaison: Jeremy Haug 612-578-8058

Guild Examinations: Stephen Self (h) 651-481-3297, (c) 651-402-9043

Membership Coord.: Laura Edman (h) 651-439-1071, (c) 651-216-0277
Placement: Jeffrey Patry (w) 763-788-9653, ext. 109, (c) 612-327-9894
Student Competition: Mary Newton (h) 763-546-1307, (c) 612-581-3106
TCAGO Organ Database: David Engen (c) 612-801-8662

Chapter Website: www.tcago.org
Website Administrators: David Engen (c) 612-801-8662; Kirsten Uhlenberg (h) 651-646-8120

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 TCAGO member Michael Barone, or by mail to: Pipedreams Calendar, 480 Cedar St., Saint Paul, MN 55101. In a pinch, you may call 612-290-1539.

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 KSNJ-99.5FM and other stations in the Classical MPR network. For your convenience, Pipedreams also is 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.

Find us on social media: 🌐 Facebook, Instagram, YouTube