

TCAGO Program Year 2016-2017

**Opening Event: Vespers and Members Dinner
Sunday, September 25, 4:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Richfield**

The Vespers service will be sung by the 100-member Choir of Christ Chapel from Gustavus Adolphus College, with organ, brass, and handbells. Brandon Dean is the director; Chad Winterfeldt, organist. Paul Westermeyer will preside. The service will also feature the Composition Competition-winning solo organ piece, *Elegy*, by Brenda Portman.

The member dinner will follow the service, with the installation of officers. Reservations are required for the dinner only. The cost of the dinner is \$25.00 Register online at tcago.org or contact Jeremy Haug (612-578-8058) by September 19.

House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Avenue, Richfield

Additional chapter events for the year

- Saturday, October 15 – Fall Organ Crawl
- Friday, November 4 – *Awakening the Dream: A Guide for Organ Committees*
- Saturday, November 12 – Masterclass and Improvisation Workshop with Tom Trenny
- Friday/Saturday, November 11/12 – Tom Trenny, organist; Kathy Romey, director; *Singers In Accord; Duruflé Requiem* and *Yves Castenet Missa Brevis*
- January 2017, date TBA; Professional Concerns Event with Karl Kornowski
“Negotiating the relationships between musicians and those who hire them”
- Saturday, February 11 – Presentation on Scandinavian Organ Music by James Hicks
- Saturday, February 25 – Pipe Organ Discovery Day
- Saturday, March 18 – Before Bach’s Birthday Bash
- Saturday, late March or early April – Student Competition
- Friday, May 5 – Members recital and festive reception

In this Issue

Dean’s Column - “End of Summer Reflections”	page 2
2016 TCAGO Composition Competition Results Announced	page 3
TCAGO Premiers New Video: <i>A Guide for Organ Committees</i>	page 3
Raymond Johnston Organ Recital at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral	page 4
Hector Olivera Organ Concert at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi	page 4
Church Music Workshop at Grace Lutheran Church, Mankato	page 5
<i>Bach and Sons</i> Organ Recital at Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Wisconsin	page 5
University of St. Thomas Organ Concert Series for 2016-2017	page 6
<i>The Northrop Organ Will Sing Again</i>	page 6
Response from a Reader of <i>Pipenotes</i>	page 7
National Lutheran Choir 2016-2017 Season	page 7
AGO Recognizes Three Award-winning Composers	page 8
Calendar of Events	page 8
TCAGO Officers, Board, Committees, etc.	page 9



American Guild of Organists – Twin Cities Chapter

Pipenotes

Dean's Column

Paul Westermeyer

End of Summer Reflections

It may be that Charles Dickens, though writing about the year 1775, was referring to every year when he began *A Tale of Two Cities* with these familiar words: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Best and worst certainly seem to refer to our period.

Let's start with some of the worst. Martin Marty, in a recent *Sightings*, referred to a report from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni about the absence of history from our classrooms and then, with careful construal, mentioned "multi-partisan chaos." The latter mention reminded me of recent articles in which writers have noted that we live in an age of anger and rage. The absence of history reminded me of our period's version of book burning, as "experts" have admonished us to avoid all language above a fourth-grade level and to excise from our use all words that have historical associations, like "hymns" – with the spoken or unspoken presuppositions that we ignore complexity and reduce things to a sales pitch that increases the treasury. Then I remembered a conversation at the Hymn Society conference this summer where a few of us were discussing how things historical were being obliterated by administrators. I said something about the relation of budgetary matters to such cuts. A wise and seasoned hymnologist responded, "It's not about budgets; it's about a lack of vision."

The organ, which has a very long history, is tied into this iconoclastic worst of our period. Attacks on and cuts of the organ are not unique to the organ. They are part of a large cultural milieu in which the systemic controls are the present moment, little or no concern for long trajectories of the past's importance for the present and future, and "Where's mine?"



Now for some of the best. Rather remarkable organs are being built, re-worked, and cared for. At the Hymn Society conference where we had the conversation about historical ties being obliterated, a college-age organist led the hymn singing very well from a fine organ. His skill and the organ reflected that plenty of historical understanding and preparation lived into the present and the future. Organ committees still meet and inevitably discuss all sorts of broad historical and long-term issues to which the organ invariably leads them. As you see in this issue of *Pipenotes*, the TCAGO has produced a video about one such process at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. It will be made public at Augustana on Friday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. (You are all invited.)

These best of contexts include oases of deep concern for the common good, of which many of you are a part. They fill the land (usually with little publicity) in churches, schools, and associations where vision is in rich supply. With it comes the beauty of art and music and concerns for the whole social fabric, the neighbor, and the planet.

Some years ago an oasis was in evidence at the dedication of an organ in a seminary chapel. If I recall this correctly, one of the speakers was an organist who said what you would not expect an organist to say – until you think about it a bit. He said that an organ is not about music. It's about the new Jerusalem. It's a little city that works together in love. You may have difficulty convincing an organ committee of that without the realization that omitting the musical piece is hyperbole that serves to highlight it. Organ committees, along with thoughtful organists, choirs, and congregations, however, tend to discover the truth that it encapsulates. It and all the rest of the best of our period are worth remembering as we enter the maelstrom of the fall and the temptation to see only the worst.

Be of good cheer. Our mix of best and worst is apparently not unique to our period. We along with the organ can contribute to the best in the midst of whatever worst we face.

2016 TCAGO Composition Competition Results Announced

Elegy (2016) by Brenda Portman was the winning entry in the TCAGO Composition Competition, with a prize of \$1500. The competition this year required a meditative piece for solo pipe organ. Forty-five compositions from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico were received.

Brenda Portman is the Resident Organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati, where she provides music for Sunday morning services, accompanies the Wesley Choir and Cathedral Choir, and serves as Executive Director of the church's renowned Organ Concert Series. She recently completed a DMA in organ performance at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, where she received a full scholarship as first-prize winner of the Strader Organ Competition and served as a teaching assistant for the organ department. She serves on the Executive Board of the Cincinnati chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



The panel of judges expresses gratitude for the many hours of work invested by the composers. Members of the panel were Curt Oliver, Aaron David Miller, and Lawrence Lawyer.

Announcement of the 2017 Twin Cities American Guild of Organists Composition Competition will be released in the coming weeks.

TCAGO Premiers New Video: A Guide for Organ Committees

Phil Asgian, Educational Outreach Chair

Our Chapter has recently produced a video, *A Guide for Organ Committees*. It is designed to be a resource for those planning to install an organ, whether in a house of worship, a concert hall, educational institution, or another venue.

This video tells the story of the Glatter-Götz/Rosales pipe organ at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. It explores what is required for a successful new organ project in terms of leadership and skills of the organ committee and how the congregation is engaged in the process, and the ongoing impact this instrument has had in the congregation and the community. The production includes interviews with members of the organ committee, the senior pastor, members of the congregation, organist and choir director, directors of both Glatter-Götz and Rosales Organ Builders, and concert artist John West, who played a recital last November on this instrument.



Join us for a special evening, Friday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. We will show the video, share some brief background and context, and of course celebrate the instrument in music. This event is co-sponsored by our Chapter and Augustana Lutheran Church. A reception, hosted by our Chapter, will follow the program. Copies of the video will be available for sale at the reception.

[Augustana Lutheran Church](#)

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Raymond Johnston Organ Recital

Sunday, September 18, 3:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis

Canon Musician Raymond Johnston will present the opening concert of the St. Mark's Cathedral Music Series with a recital on the 2012 Foley Baker instrument. Program will include the *Sonata on the 94th Psalm* by Julius Reubke, and *Te Deum* by Jeanne Demessieux. Admission is free, and a reception will follow.

Choral Evensong is sung weekly at 5:00 p.m., beginning September 11.

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Hector Olivera Organ Concert

Sunday, September 18, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

The internationally-acclaimed concert organist, Hector Olivera, known for entertaining his audiences with a dazzling display of sonic and technical marvels, will perform on the St. Andrew's sanctuary pipe organ. Maestro Olivera is a passionate, gifted, and unique musician, whose personal interpretations of both classical and popular music have amazed and delighted audiences around the world.

The afternoon program will celebrate the 15-year anniversary of the rebuilding and installation of the 7,310-pipe, 108-rank Casavant organ at St. Andrew's by the Schantz



organ company in 2001. Dedicated in worship services on Sunday, Sept. 9, two days before the 9/11 attacks, the relocated organ was originally installed in 1927 at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. This organ, in its new home, has been heralded as one of the finest concert organs in the world and remains the largest pipe organ in Minnesota and the surrounding states.

The concert is open to the public. Free-will donations will be accepted. A reception will follow the concert. For further information, please contact Bill Chouinard at 651-762-9156.

[St. Andrew's Lutheran Church](#)
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Church Music Workshop: Exploring New Music for Pipe Organ

Saturday, September 24, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church, Mankato

Stephen Hamilton will be the presenter of this workshop, hosted by the Sioux Trails Chapter.

In this practical workshop, Dr. Hamilton will select recently-published pipe organ music for worship. He will demonstrate all music that is presented and offer ideas for its use and registration within worship. Music of various technical abilities will be explored. A complete handout will be provided that includes titles and publisher information. Dr. Hamilton is an engaging clinician who has presented this workshop at regional and national conventions of the AGO.

To register, visit agosioxtrails.org
or call 507-933-7447.

Grace Lutheran Church
320 E. Main Street, Mankato

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CONCERT ORGANIST

**CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MARY
OF THE ASSUMPTION**
San Francisco, California
September 11, 2016 at 4:00 PM

PROGRAM
INTRODUCTION AND PASSACAGLIA IN D MINOR, MAX Reger (1873-1916)
TROIS CHORALS (1890) CÉSAR-AUGUSTE FRANCK, II: B MINOR (1822-1890)
PASSACAGLIA, BWV 582 JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

STEPHEN HAMILTON, ORGANIST
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1111 Gough St., San Francisco, CA 94109
s.hamilton@prodigy.net
(212) 289-0615

www.stephenjonhamilton.com

Bach and Sons Organ Recital

Sunday, October 2, 3:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, Wisconsin

Zion Lutheran Church in Wausau is pleased to present *Bach and Sons*, a live organ performance with multi-media. Organist Jeannine Jordan will perform

the organ music of Bach and his sons, Wilhelm Friedemann and Carl Philipp Emanuel, as the story of Johann Sebastian Bach and his family is told from the perspective of four women



important in Bach's life. David Jordan's media talents bring the story to life visually, with live projections of Dr. Jordan's playing, along with video and images, taking the viewer to Bach's Germany.

The program has been well received by a variety of listeners across the country, from the serious concert attendee to the casual listener. A reception will follow the concert. A free-will donation will be received.

[Zion Lutheran Church](#)

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UST Organ Artist Concert Series

The University of St. Thomas Department of Music announces the 2016-2017 season of the Organ Artist Concert series.

Dexter Kennedy, 2014 Chartres competition winner, will inaugurate the season with a concert Sunday, October 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Vincent Dubois, recently named titular organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, will make his second appearance at St. Thomas on Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m.

The free concerts are performed on the landmark Gabriel Kney pipe organ at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Information: stthomas.edu/music; 651-962-5850.



The Northrop Organ Will Sing Again!

*Dean Billmeyer, University Organist,
University of Minnesota*

I am pleased to report that the restoration of the Northrop Auditorium Æolian-Skinner Organ is well underway. The organ was removed from its (excellent) storage facility on campus last October, and shipped to Connecticut, where restoration work began. Reinstallation of the organ began in late July, with a crew of seven organ builders from Foley-Baker, Inc., of Tolland, CT installing parts of the Pedal and Swell divisions in the new auditorium at the University of Minnesota. We anticipate the restoration of the organ to be complete during the summer of 2018.

Considered an architectural treasure of Minneapolis, Northrop Auditorium is an enduring symbol of the University, the focal point of the Twin Cities campus, and the anchor of the Northrop Mall. Since opening in 1929, Northrop has served as the University's primary gathering place for the performing arts,

concerts, academic ceremonies, and major civic events. The revitalization of the auditorium has included replacing the existing hall with a new, pre-eminent cultural and performing arts center with a world-class, multi-purpose 2,800+-seat hall featuring state-of-the-art acoustics, fabulous sightlines, cutting-edge technologies, and updated amenities.

The Northrop Organ, the third-largest auditorium Skinner extant in the US, is Æolian-Skinner's Opus 892, built between 1932 and 1936. Containing 82 independent stops, 108 ranks, and 6,975 pipes along with two percussion instruments, the organ includes four 32' stops, many stops on high wind pressure, and an extraordinary variety of tonal colors. Four of the organ's divisions are under expression, including half of the Great. Exemplifying the best of the late Romantic-Symphonic style in organ building, the Northrop Organ was awarded the prestigious citation for "exceptional historic merit" by the Organ Historical Society in 1999.

The organ's home in the "new" Northrop is in chambers behind the proscenium. A completely new layout for the organ was developed through extensive consultation with both Foley-Baker and Schoenstein & Co. of Benicia, CA. We anticipate that the projection of the organ into the acoustically superior auditorium will be excellent, and we are excited that this especially beautiful organ will finally find a home in a wonderful new space.

The removal and storage of Northrop's historic organ began on February 22, 2011, in preparation for the organ's restoration. In April 2015, President Eric Kaler announced that a generous bequest by the late Dr. Roger E. Anderson, a long-time supporter of the Northrop organ, would provide the funds to complete the restoration. Past President Robert Bruininks, a musician himself and



Foley-Baker crew installs basses of the 32' Pedal Bourdon in Northrop Auditorium. The largest pipe weighs 630 pounds.

strong admirer of the Northrop instrument, was also influential in seeing that the funding was obtained. In addition, thanks are due to the numerous supporters who have served as the Friends of the Northrop Organ board since 1994, as well as over 350 individual donors to the project.

I gave the final organ recital in the old auditorium on December 21, 2010, on the night of the Winter Solstice. The program featured music symbolizing the return of light following the longest night of the year. It is with great joy and anticipation that we await the return of this shining example of Æolian-Skinner's organ building art!

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Response from a Reader

In a recent issue of *Pipenotes*, Michael Barone wrote some reflections and encouragements about sharing our gifts, and received this interesting response from Bruce Jacobs:

Some time back I read your kind encouragement in *Pipenotes* that we provide bulletin notes to accompany our Sunday music selections. I've been too reluctant in the past, partly because I'm always "just the sub."

But having tried it and finding it well received, your encouragement makes it easy. And then I find myself more readily considering a whole Sunday of one composer now that it can be explained.

My choice of Tournemire one Sunday, and the notes (below) came more naturally after hearing the wonderful improvisations by Baptiste-Florian Marle-Ouvrard recently at St. Eustache in Paris. The ancient chant is still there, threaded into a vibrant modern tapestry of sound. This is what I had printed in the church bulletin:

From the Organ Bench

One hundred and fifty years on, a grand tradition continues in the great churches of Paris. Talented organists, seated at one of the many immense organs, improvise throughout the Catholic liturgy, in the style of today, around Gregorian Chant melodies from ancient time. Charles Tournemire was one of the many greats in this role, serving at St. Clotilde from 1898 until his death in 1939. The cycle we hear throughout worship today is one of the fifty-one compositions transcribed from his original improvisations for specific Sundays of the church year.

STEPHEN HAMILTON Concert Organist

An excellent performance of the Bach "Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor" (was) given by Stephen Hamilton who obviously knew the (Rieger) organ's sonorous capabilities and brought them powerfully to bear in a rousing account. He took serious risks with accents of duration at one point, lingering on strong beats, but succeeded in enhancing the effect of teeming culmination that lies at the heart of this work. —The New York Times

www.stephenjonhamilton.com

952-934-0331

National Lutheran Choir Announces 2016-17 Season

The 64-voice National Lutheran Choir (NLC) is pleased to announce its 31st concert season, beginning November 2016 through April 2017. This year's schedule includes the choir's cherished *All Saints* program (to be performed in Edina, St. Cloud, and Mahanomet); the sacred *Christmas Festival* concerts in Minneapolis and St. Louis; a *Choral TuneUp* workshop with Dr. Lee Nelson, director of the Wartburg College Choir; a joint concert with St. John's Boys' Choir; and a historical program of early Lutheran music, which will tour to Duluth and Moorhead and conclude in Minneapolis. For all details and ticket information, see www.nlca.com

AGO Recognizes Three Award-winning Composers

The 2016 Distinguished Composer Award was presented to David Ashley White. His anthem, *With a Shining Like the Sun*, for mixed chorus, brass, timpani, organ, and congregation, was given its premier performance during the national convention in Houston.

The 2016 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition was presented to Ivan Božičević for *The Moonpiper—A Bagpipe Dance for Organ*, which was given its premier performance by Joby Bell during the convention. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000, and publication by Hinshaw Music Inc.

The 2016 AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition was presented to Michael Gilbertson for his anthem for SATB choir, organ, and trumpet. *The Voice of the Lord* was given its premier performance during the convention. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000 and publication, both provided by the ECS Publishing Co.



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Calendar of Events

September

Sunday, September 18, 3:00 p.m.

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St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

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7625 Chicago Avenue, Richfield

October

Sunday, October 2, 3:00 p.m.

Bach and Sons Organ Recital

Jeannine Jordan, organist

Zion Lutheran Church

709 Sixth Street, Wausau, WI

TCAGO Event

Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Fall Organ Crawl

Beginning at Benson Great Hall

Bethel University

3900 Bethel Drive, St. Paul



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Chapter Website - www.tcago.org

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Facebook - facebook.com/twincitiesAGO

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 are combined.

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](#).

Pipedreams

For a listing of organ events statewide, access the [Pipedreams Organ Calendar](#). For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, please send information to [Michael Barone](#), or to [Pipedreams Calendar](#), 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

MPR

Classical Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar.

On the top bar of the general MPR web page, click on "Events," then "Events Calendar," then "Classical Music." However, if you find yourself on the Classical MPR main page, click on "More," then "Events," then "Classical Music."

In either case, once on the page that lists Classical Music Events, if you wish to add your own upcoming activity, under the headline for "Calendar Events Home" at the top of the page you should find an additional prompt for "Submit Event." Fill in all appropriate boxes (and check to see if your venue is already logged into the system, which might save you some time).

Note that this MPR Calendar information will reach a different audience than that submitted to Barone for posting on the TCAGO/[Pipedreams](#) calendar pages. Both are free, the one a self-service feature and a separate vehicle by which you can let people (including the Classical MPR program hosts) know about your classical music concerts.

By all means, continue to send information directly to Michael Barone too!!

We also encourage you to regularly request organ selections on the "Friday Favorites" show with Steven Staruch. Encourage and promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming!