

A Letter From the Dean

Dear Colleagues

Tonight I was pleased to hear the new Holland Bach Society at Second Reformed Church in Zeeland. Aaron Goodyke had arranged to feature them on the "Sublime Art in a Sacred Space" series. I highly recommend that if you are able, attend one of their worship services next weekend. On Sunday morning at 10:30 they will be at Fourteenth Christian Reformed Church, and Sunday evening, 5:00, at Central Avenue Christian Reformed Church. The sixteen member orchestra, including Kristin Goodyke on the organ, and twelve member choir nearly raised the roof. If you are a person who is always "on duty," you may feel like I do about attending something at which you have no responsibility. It was a joyous evening for me.

We are only one week from the much anticipated workshop by Brenda Portman. Maybe you heard the announcement on Blue Lake Radio this week. It is no small thing that we are bringing Brenda all the way from Cincinnati to do this program on 20th and 21st century composers for the organ. Some of her own compositions will be among them. She will be playing excerpts from the pieces she is discussing. The place is Hope Church, 77 W. 11th Street in Holland, and the time is 7:30. Since this is such a special event, we have invited the Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and Southwest Michigan chapters. Masks are required. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you on Monday, November 22.

I am happy to announce that we have another new member from South Haven. Jerry Jelsema, who attended our last meeting on the Aging Voice, has joined our chapter. Welcome, Jerry! We are so happy to have both you and Ruth Baker, our other recent new member from South Haven.

Various interesting things have been e-mailed to me since I became dean. One is a request for a substitute organist for Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church in Battle Creek.

We will be taking the customary break in December due to our busy schedules, so the next opportunity to get together will be the Epiphany party/soup supper on Monday, January 10, 6 p.m., at the home of Linda Fulton.

Blessings.

Julia Colingsworth,

Great Lakes Duo this weekend with Rhonda Edgington

Rhonda will be playing with trumpeter and long-time friend and collaborator, Brian Reichenbach, for two concerts this weekend.

1. Friday night at 7pm at St Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo
2. Saturday at 3pm at the Calvin University Chapel

Both are free - no tickets required.

They are looking forward to performing some great new repertoire that was recorded on their recently released CD (including a piece Steve Jenkins wrote for them), as well as a few even-newer pieces.

If you can't make the concerts, Calvin's will be livestreamed at these links:

<https://vimeo.com/event/684136>

<https://youtube.com/calvinuniversity>

Songs of the Nativity - An Advent Organ Recital

The First Sunday in Advent, November 28, 2021, 3:00 pm

First Reformed Church, 630 State St., Holland, Michigan

Richard Van Oss, organist at First Reformed Church, will present "Songs of the Nativity - An Advent Organ Recital" at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 28 as part of the church's Free@3 Concert Series. Van Oss has been the organist at First Church since 1985, and this year marks the 37th time he has presented an Advent organ recital at the church. There is no cost to attend this program, but face masks will be required.

Van Oss will perform fifteen different Christmas carols on the church's magnificent four-manual Casavant/Rodgers pipe organ in the hour-long program. You will hear such favorites as: "What Child Is This", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Away In a Manger", "O Holy Night", and "Joy to the World" among others. Some lesser-known carols will be included as well such as: "On This Day Earth Shall Ring", "O Little One Sweet", "Sing Lullaby", and a gospel organ rendition of "My Lord What a Morning".

Van Oss holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Hope College (1975), where he studied organ with Roger Rietberg. He earned his Master of Education degree from Grand Valley State University in 2002. He taught in the Ravenna Public Schools for 35 years and the Zeeland Public Schools for 4 years. He was one of the founding members of the Holland Area Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) where he continues to serve on the board and manage its web-site. He has also performed in organ recitals at various area churches as well as at Hope College. In addition, he has designed and manages the web-site for the Free@3 Concert Series and has been the organist for the Holland High School Holiday Collage Concert for the past several years.

The Casavant Pipe Organ

The organ in the sanctuary of First Reformed Church was designed by Lawrence Phelps and custom built by Casavant Freres Limitee of St. Hyacinths, Quebec, Canada in 1962 at a cost of \$34,000 for its modern new building.

The original console contained three manuals and pedal board, with 36 draw-knobs and 12 couplers to control stops. It contained 37 ranks (sets of pipes). In 1984 the late Roger Davis of Hope College made tonal improvements and at the same time added the 16' Sub Bass (wood pipes) to the Pedal and a tremulant to the Positiv manual. The 8' Kleinheksel Trumpet was added in 1988. A portable Zimbelstern was acquired in 1996.

After over 50 years of use, the original console was showing its age and three of the reed ranks were in need of revoicing or replacement. In 2016 it was decided to obtain a new state of the art 4 manual console from the Rodgers Organ Company. This new console has 84 moving drawknobs and 19 couplers that control all of the 39 ranks of pipes as well as 443 digital voices. The 8' Kleinheksel

Trumpet was revoiced and the 8' Krummhorn rank and the 16' Posaune in the Pedal were replaced with new pipes.

You may find out more about this Casavant/Rodgers organ, including a complete stop list, at: <http://firstreformedorgan.weebly.com>

Advent Pilgrimage Service at Third Reformed Church

Advent Pilgrimage on Sunday, December 19th at 6pm. Third Reformed Church, 111 W 13th St, Holland, Mi 49423. This is a service of remembering what we are to do during the season of Advent before the coming of our Lord at Christmas. There will be lots of congregational singing.

2021-2022 Calendar		
Mon Nov 22, 7:30 p.m.	Brenda Portman – Significant 20 th and 21 st Century Composers for the Organ	Hope Church, Holland
Sun Nov 28, 3:00 p.m.	Annual Christmas Recital by Rick Van Oss	1 st Reformed Church, Holland
Sun Dec 19, 6:00 p.m.	Advent Pilgrimage Service	3 rd Reformed Church, Holland
Mon Jan 10, 6:00 p.m.	Annual chapter Epiphany Party/Soup Supper	Linda Fulton's house
Mon Feb 21, 7:30 p.m.	South side Holland organ crawl, ending up at the First Reformed Church's music library	Starting location TBA
Mon Mar 21, 7:30 p.m.	Larry Visser's Music	2 nd Reformed Church, Zeeland
Mon Apr 25, 7:30 p.m.	Music for organ with other instruments	TBA
Mon Jun 20, 6:00	Annual members picnic	Judy Koeman's house

Chapter Officers for 2021-2022

Dean – Julia Colingsworth
 Sub-Dean - Linda Fulton
 Secretary - Karen Howells
 Treasurer - Gordon Bruns
 Board Member - Rick Van Oss
 Student Board Member - Alex Cross
 Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – hollandareaago.org