

# PEORIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

February/March 2015

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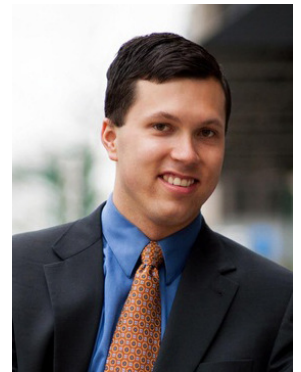
## UPCOMING CONCERT

Matthew Dirst, a Morton native, will return to Peoria to perform an organ concert for the Peoria Bach Festival on Sunday, May 31 at 3:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran, Peoria. See p. 3 for details.



## JONATHAN RUDY TO PERFORM AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Jonathan Rudy, most recent winner of the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP), will perform at St. Mary's Cathedral, 607 NE Madison Ave., Peoria, Illinois on Sunday, March 8 at 3:30 p.m. Entitled "World of Pipes: King of Instruments," his innovative program will feature a variety of works from many different eras gathered together by these thoughts from the artist:



*The Organ—grandest instrument the hand  
Of man has placed in Music's galaxy;  
In which all Nature's wondrous sounds are linked  
In golden chains of countless harmonies.  
Responsive to the touch of man's weak hands  
As if a giant's fingers swept its keys  
And called concordant voices from the depths,  
The diapason of the storm-struck sea,  
The thunder's peal, the wind's wild whistling wail,  
The songs of swift-winged warblers in the air,  
And the soft sighing of the ambient breeze  
Temple of Tone art thou! The shrine supreme  
Of Sound's mysterious powers and richest gifts,  
God-given thought alone could have inspired  
The human mind to frame so grand a work;  
Great Organ—Monarch of all Instruments!*

---George Ashdown Audsle

Words such as "strength" and "magnitude" often accompany descriptions of the pipe organ. Yet the true beauty of this glorious instrument is its flexibility and variety; for as Audsle's poem suggests, it can articulate every tone and picture that human thought could possibly imagine.

Today's program will capture just a few of these "worlds" – distinct realms of sound and color - and will demonstrate just how diverse, and divine, organ music can be.

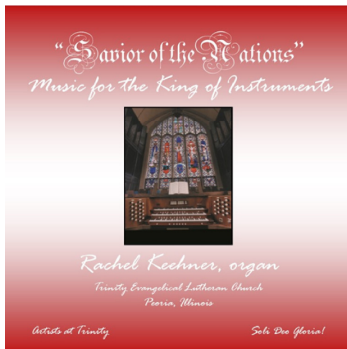
--Jonathan D. Rudy

Works on the program will include the Grand Dialogue in C Major by Louis Marchand (1669-1732), the Prelude and Fugue in A minor by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), selections from Four Biblical Dances by Peter Eben (1929-2007), Fantasie No. 2 in D-Flat Major Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), as well as works by Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643), American composer Pamela Decker (b. 1955), and French organist and composer Jean Guillou (b. 1930). Admission is \$12 for Adults and \$10 for Senior Citizens. Students and children are free.

For more information on Jonathan, please visit [www.jonathandrudy.com](http://www.jonathandrudy.com).

Cathedral of St. Mary  
607 NE Madison Ave. • Peoria, IL 61603 • (309) 682-5823  
Admission: \$12 Adults / \$10 Senior Citizens / Children and Students free

### NEW RECORDING BY PEORIA AGO MEMBER



Rachel Keehner, one of the Peoria AGO's youngest members and also one of our Board Members, has just released a recording entitled "Savior of the Nations: Music for the King of Instruments." It was recorded on the 1983 Schlicker organ at Trinity Lutheran Church, Peoria, and in conjunction with the Trinity Music Ministry. It features music by Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Reger, and Alain among others. A list of the works on the recording and samples of each track are available by visiting <http://ldr.fm/emx82>.

To order this CD, click here or call the Trinity Music Ministry at (309) 676-4609 (x207). It is also may be downloaded from iTunes and other digital music suppliers or from [www.loudr.fm](http://www.loudr.fm) by visiting <http://ldr.fm/emx82>. Note that the digital version does not

include the Alain for copyright reasons.

A previous recording by Jonathan Wessler entitled "Praise Him With Pipes..." is also available from the Trinity Music Ministry. Both Jonathan and Rachel grew up as members of Trinity and began their pipe organ studies on this instrument.

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*"Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him  
with strings and pipe!" Psalm 150:4*

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### HANDBELL WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28 AT TRINITY

On Saturday, March 28, there will be a workshop for handbell ringers from 10:00-1:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria. The clinician will be Kristine Stout, a handbell soloist who presents concerts and workshops all around the nation (visit [www.joybelltheater.com](http://www.joybelltheater.com)). If you would like to attend, please let us know by e-mailing [martin@trinitypeoria.com](mailto:martin@trinitypeoria.com) or calling Martin at (309) 676-4609 (x207).

She will be presenting a concert on Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. on the Trinity Concert Series entitled "The Story of Holy Week: An Easter Cantata for Handbells." For more details on this concert, call (309) 676-4609 or visit [www.trinityconcertseries.org](http://www.trinityconcertseries.org).



## WATCH BACH'S ST. MATTHEW PASSION ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 FROM 12:00-3:00 P.M.

Observe Good Friday by watching Johann Sebastian Bach's St. Matthew Passion as performed by the Peoria Bach Festival 2010. Arguably, the most powerful and poignant of all Passion settings, Bach's St. Matthew Passion sets to music all of Matthew 26 and 27 and also provides commentary on the Passion story in the form of choruses, congregational hymns, and arias for soloists.

The viewing will take place in the Music Room at Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave. Peoria on a new SmartBoard installed just this past year. The performance is exceptional, as you have come to expect from the Peoria Bach Festival. Fortunately, it will be possible to hear every nuance of musical expression since this SmartBoard was installed with the Premium Sound package. Please call (309) 696-4797 for more information.

## THE PEORIA AGO BRINGS MATTHEW DIRST BACK TO CENTRAL ILLINOIS



Matthew Dirst returns to his Central Illinois roots in order to present this concert of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) in conjunction with the Peoria Bach Festival 2015. A native of Morton, Matthew is Professor of Music at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, where he teaches courses in music history and performance practice. He is also Founder and Artistic Director of Ars Lyrica Houston, a Grammy-nominated ensemble that specializes in Baroque chamber and dramatic works (see [www.arslyricahouston.org](http://www.arslyricahouston.org)).

Matthew is the first American musician to win major international prizes in both organ and harpsichord, including first prize at the American Guild of Organists 1990 National

Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance and second prize at the inaugural Warsaw International Harpsichord Competition (1993). Equally active as a performer and scholar, his publications on the music of Bach and its reception appear in the *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, *Early Music*, *Notes: The Journal of the American Music Library Association*, *Music and Letters*, *Bach Perspectives*, and *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. He is also the author of a recent book entitled *Engaging Bach: The Keyboard Legacy from Marpurg to Mendelssohn* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Organized around the most productive ideas generated by Bach's keyboard works from his own day to the middle of the nineteenth century, this study shows how Bach's remarkable and long-lasting legacy took shape amid critical changes in European musical thought and practice. In the words of one prominent reviewer, it is "a compelling and readable survey, one marked by clarity, judgement and nuance" (*Early Music*, Feb 2013).

Matthew's academic degrees include a PhD in musicology from Stanford University, MM in organ and Master of Sacred Music degrees from Southern Methodist University, and a BM from the University of Illinois. A Fulbright scholar to France, he received the coveted *prix de virtuosité* in both organ and harpsichord with teachers Marie-Claire Alain and Huguette Dreyfus and did further harpsichord study with Alan Curtis at UC Berkeley. He also serves as Organist at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
135 NE Randolph Ave. • Peoria, IL 61606 • 309-696-4797  
Admission: \$12 Adults / \$10 Senior Citizens / Children and Students free

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*"There's nothing remarkable about it. All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself." – J. S. Bach*

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*Organ at First United Methodist Church, Peoria, Illinois.*



## Contact Us

### Peoria AGO

PO Box 1072

Peoria, IL 61653

(309) 696-4797

[agopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:agopeoria@gmail.com)

[www.agopeoria.org](http://www.agopeoria.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The two organists featured on this year's Concert Artist Series are both winners of the NYACOP competition. NYACOP stands for National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance. It is a biennial competition held in conjunction with the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. Our Concert Artist Series this year features Jonathan Rudy who won the competition this past year at the 2014 convention and our very own Matthew Dirst who won the competition in 1990.

## RECENT EVENTS

On Sunday, February 8 First United Methodist Church, Peoria, presented a benefit concert featuring four Peoria organists for The Geoff Keller Chapter Group of the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States to raise money and build awareness about Malignant Hyperthermia (MHAUS).

On Sunday, January 11 St. John's Lutheran Church, Pekin, presented an Epiphany Service of Hymns and Readings on the newly renovated Hinners pipe organ. Featured organists were some the Peoria AGO's youngest members: Rachel Keehner, Nicholas Liese, and Samuel Bishop.

For details, visit our website at [www.agopeoria.org](http://www.agopeoria.org). Please send any news items and concert announcements to [agopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:agopeoria@gmail.com).

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## PEORIA AGO

PO Box 1072

Peoria, IL 61653