



***THE AUSTIN ORGAN***  
LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

# ***THE AUSTIN ORGAN FAREWELL CONCERT***

Sunday, May 18, 2025

*Featuring organists:*

Bruce Bengtson

Mark Brampton Smith

Sandra Erickson

Rev. Paul Finger

Gary Lewis

Andrew Schaeffer

John Chappell Stowe

Linda Morgan Stowe

## Program

Welcome

Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music  
Jacob Dowgewicz, Austin Organs, Inc.

Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Opus 7, No. 1

Marcel Dupré  
(1886–1971)

*John Chappell Stowe*

Een Vaste Burgt

Cor Kee  
(1900–1977)

*Sandra Erickson*

Les Corps Glorieux

VI. Joie et clarté des Corps Glorieux

Olivier Messiaen  
(1908–1992)

*Linda Morgan Stowe*

Troisième Symphonie in f-sharp minor, opus 28

Louis Vierne  
(1870–1937)

Litanies (JA 119)

Jehan Alain  
(1911–1940)

*Gary Lewis*

Christ ist erstanden

Niels Otto Raasted  
(1888–1966)

*Rev. Paul Finger*

Douze Pièces Pour Orgue

I. Prélude

Théodore Dubois  
(1837–1924)

In Dir ist Freude (BWV 615)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

*Bruce Bengtson*

Celebration

Cecilia McDowall  
(b. 1951)

*Linda Morgan Stowe*

Adagio for Strings

*Transcribed for Organ by William Strickland*

Samuel Barber  
(1910–1981)

*Mark Brampton Smith*

*Please rise and face the rear of the church.*

## **Thanksgiving at the Disposition of the Organ**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
today we have gathered for the last time  
to hear this venerable instrument in this place.

For sixty years it has served faithfully,  
enlivening our worship, illuminating the Word of God,  
and strengthening our song in praise of God.

Our hearts are grateful  
as we give thanks for the people who gifted it to us,  
for the blessings it has generated,  
for its companionship of gentle sounds,  
and for the prospect of its continued use.

### ***A reading from Colossians:***

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (*Colossians 3:16-17*)

## **Thanksgiving**

*Those who were present at its original dedication lead the litany.*

For the gift of music:

**Thanks be to God.**

For wood and metal, gifts from the earth:

**Thanks be to God.**

For human ingenuity, skill, and craft:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the gift of this pipe organ:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the gift of musicians who have used it:

**Thanks be to God.**

For its accompaniment to our prayer, praise, lament, and joy:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the song that it has led for sixty years in this place:

**Thanks be to God.**

For the song that it will lead in its new home:

**Thanks be to God.**

Sing with joy to God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.  
Praise God with tambourine and dance;  
praise God with strings and pipe.  
We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe,  
for your abundant gifts.  
The whole earth reflects your glory;  
all your creatures praise you.  
We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth,  
of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory.  
You alone do great wonders,  
and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth.  
You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children,  
to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song.  
In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints.  
Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song.  
We give you thanks for the ministry of this Austin pipe organ,  
for our ancestors in the faith who provided it for our use,  
for its accompaniment of our worship,  
and for the enrichment it has brought your people  
in times of joy and sorrow, praise and lament.  
By your Holy Spirit,  
let this organ continue to enliven the proclamation  
of your word in a new place  
and may it be a blessing for all who use it.

*The organ is marked with oil.*

We now send this instrument forth  
in the name of the Father, † and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Doxology**

*Sung by all.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

*Please be seated.*

\*Première Symphonie in D minor, opus 14

Louis Vierne

VI. Finale

*Andrew Schaeffer*

*\*This piece was performed by Robert Baker at the conclusion of the dedication recital in January 1967.*

*All are invited to a reception in the narthex following the program.*

*The balcony will also be open for those who wish view the organ.*

*Our thanks to Daniel Schwandt who composed the*

*Thanksgiving at the Disposition of the Organ.*

## A history of the organs of Luther Memorial Church

At the turn of the 20th century, as the University of Wisconsin was rapidly maturing and growing, none of the Lutheran churches in Madison offered worship in English. This changed in 1905 when a group of seven people met to organize a Bible study. Efforts to canvass the UW dorms, fraternities and sororities were met with great success and in 1907, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was organized with 35 adult members and hundreds of UW student associate members. The name of the fledgling congregation was changed to Luther Memorial in 1917 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the Reformation.

The parish built a modest chapel in 1914 at 626 University Avenue, now known as the Church Key Bar and Grill. While numerous newsletters and worship bulletins make mention of organists serving at this location, church records have not yet revealed the kind of instrument was installed, nor does the church possess any photographs of the interior of this space. Given the small size of the building and modest financial capacity of the young church, it is fair to speculate this instrument was a reed organ, which were popular and inexpensive instruments of the period.

When the current building opened in 1923, it contained M.P. Möller opus 3381, a large instrument of 39 ranks (sets of pipes) and 2,744 pipes. Mathias P. Möller, a staunch Lutheran and then member of the Home Mission Board that generously guided fundraising of the new church is said to have personally contributed to the purchase of the organ.



*LM volunteers repairing water damaged mechanisms from the old Möller organ in order to keep the organ functioning for Sunday services.*



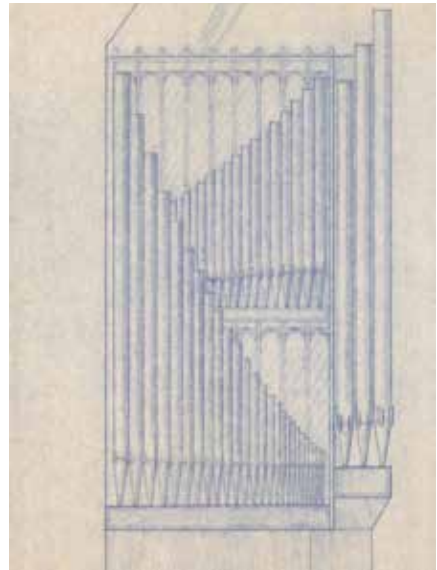
*LM volunteers cleaning pipes from the old Möller after they were damaged by water infiltration.*

Despite the appearance of façades on both sides of the church, the bulk of the organ was located on the west side in large rooms in the bell tower. The console was located in the former west balcony and five ranks of pipes were located in small chambers off of the north balcony.

Though a well-constructed instrument, the sound of the Möller organ was plagued with poor egress into the church due to its remote locations. In addition, persistent water leaks in the tower wreaked havoc on the instrument's intricate mechanisms. Volunteer parishioners spent over 3,000 hours completing temporary repairs to these waterlogged components, but by the late 1950s, it was clear that the organ was in need of a total restoration or replacement.

An organ committee was formed, chaired by Ted Meloy, and engaged the services of John Wright Harvey, UW professor of organ. Within a few months, this committee determined that not only was replacement necessary, but that the new organ should be placed high on the rear (north) wall of the church to fully take advantage of the room's excellent acoustics. This was no small decision as it required a substantial extension to the north balcony, which cost more than the organ itself.

Four builders—The Æolian-Skinner Company of Boston; Austin Organs, Inc., of Hartford, Conn.; The Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, Ohio; and Casavant Frères Organ Builders of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec—were invited to make formal proposals. Curiously, Austin was selected, though it was neither the largest or least expensive of the proposed instruments. The old Möller was sold to Alex Jordan and moved to the House on the Rock in Spring Green where portions of it can still be seen today.



*The Austin organ proposal. Note the decorative grillwork that was never installed.*



*Long-time organist Helen Paxton photographed at her first practice session on the new organ.*



The Austin organ originally contained 54 ranks and made provision for additional antiphonal stops to be installed in the old west Möller chamber. There was also to be modest façade grillwork installed at a later date. In 1986, a gift provided funds to add two stops to the Great Division and to replace one of the Austin stops in the Choir Division. In 2008, the organ's electrical system was upgraded by Erickson, Christian & Associates of Chicago.

By the early 1980s the Baldwin electronic organ in the former chapel on the lower level of the church was failing. Thanks to a generous gift from parishioner Mabel Ziegelman given memory of her sister, Clara Bevers, the church purchased Bedient Pipe Organ Company opus 23 in 1986. This small *continuo* organ was able to be transported between the chapel and the nave thanks to the new elevator that was installed at the same time. When the chapel was removed in the early 1990s, the continuo organ made its permanent home in the nave. Though still owned by the church, the Bedient organ was supplanted in 2025 by a new organ by C.B. Fisk, Inc., of Gloucester, Mass.

During the extensive nave renovations of the 1990s, the east and west transept balconies were removed and replaced with small “aria” galleries. Under the leadership of Pastor Harvey Peters, the church began to search for a secondary pipe organ to occupy the east transept. Though the idea of a new instrument ideally suited to play the works of Bach was explored, the church soon settled on obtaining an historic instrument. The church eventually acquired an 1893 J.W. Steere & Son organ located at the former Millard Congregational Church in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. The instrument was transported to Kaukauna, Wis., where it received a museum-quality restoration by J. C. Taylor and Co. It continues to be used extensively for worship, rehearsal and concerts.

As the nave renovations of the 1990s were concluding, Pastor Harvey Peters began informal conversations to discuss the future of the Austin organ. Pastor Peters, along with Director of Music Bruce Bengtson and parishioner John Chappell Stowe engaged C.B. Fisk organbuilders to draw up a proposal, with the hope that the new instrument would be completed by the time of the congregation's centennial in 2007.



*A drawing of the proposed façade for the 1990s organ project*

The large window on the north wall made the desire for an entirely mechanical action instrument difficult to execute, and thus the proposed organ partially covered the window. This reality, along with Pastor Peters' retirement dampened the momentum of this project.

In late 2019, the church council embarked on a strategic planning process to gauge facility needs that would arise in the coming decades and the replacement or eventual restoration of the Austin organ was once again lifted up as a priority. The scope of the project was transformed in early 2020 by news of an anonymous, \$1.5 million gift to be used solely for the purpose of commissioning a new pipe organ. The pipe organ task force initially investigated purchasing an historic instrument though that would be reconfigured and restored to fit our space. However, the committee ultimately decided that an entirely new instrument would offer the best artistic results.

After visiting the work of many different builders, the committee invited proposals from three of North America's leading organ building firms. After deliberating for nearly nine months, the committee selected Taylor & Boody Organbuilders of Staunton, Va. Our new organ—their opus 88—will contain 87 ranks and will not only be the largest organ the shop has built to date, but will also be the largest in Dane County.

From the very beginning of this congregation, organ music of the highest caliber has been a priority. We give thanks for the many instruments and musicians who have contributed to this tradition.

### **Organists of Luther Memorial Church**

Olga Nelson Berg (1905–1907)  
Grover Rapps (1907–1915)  
Elsie Arnson (1915–1923)  
K. M. Chworowsky (1915–1923)  
Fletcher Wheeler (1923–1924)  
Arthur Bertelsen (1924–1926)  
Paul Jones (1926–1928)  
Donald Larson (1928–1939)  
Ruth Pilger Andrews (1939–1942)  
Larry Kelliher (1942–1951)  
David Blanchar (1951–1952)  
Helen Paxton (1952–1971)  
Roger Petrich (1971–1978)  
Bruce Bengtson (1978–2018)  
Andrew Schaeffer (2018–Present)

*History by Andrew Schaeffer*

## Specifications

### Great

16'	Violone
8'	Principal
8'	Violone (ext.)
8'	Gemshorn
8'	Bourdon
4'	Octave
4'	Nachthorn
2 2/3'	Quint
2'	Super Octave
1 3/5'	Terz*
IV-VI	Fourniture
8'	Trompete*
	Chimes

### Choir (enclosed)

8'	Gedeckt
8'	Erzähler
8'	Erzähler Celeste
4'	Spitzflöte
2 2/3'	Nazard
2'	Blockflöte
1 3/5'	Tierce
8'	Bombarde (Ped.)
8'	Krummhorn*
	Tremulant

### Positiv

8'	Violone (Gt.)
8'	Nason Flute
4'	Koppelflöte
2'	Fifteenth
1 1/3'	Larigot
III	Cymbal

### Swell (enclosed)

16'	Gedeckt
8'	Geigen Principal
8'	Hohlfloete
8'	Viole de Gambe
8'	Voix Celeste
8'	Flauto Dolce
8'	Flute Celeste
4'	Principal
4'	Rohrflöte (ext. Gedeckt)
2'	Doublette
III	Plein Jeu
16'	Basson
8'	Trompette
8'	Oboe (ext. Basson)
4'	Clarion
	Tremulant

### Pedal

32'	Resultant Bass
32'	Lieblisch Bass
16'	Principal
16'	Violone (Gt.)
16'	Bourdon
16'	Gedeckt (Sw.)
16'	Erzähler (Ch.)
8'	Octave
8'	Spitzflöte
8'	Rohrgedeckt (Sw.)
4'	Choral Bass
4'	Nachthorn
2'	Flöte (ext. Nachthorn)
III	Mixture
16'	Bombarde
16'	Basson (Sw.)
8'	Bombarde (ext.)
4'	Oboe (Sw.)

*\*Added in 1986 by J.C. Taylor*

# ***COMING THIS FALL***

## ***Soli Deo Gloria* Concert Series**

Luther Memorial is pleased to launch a new concert series that will offer unique musical experiences not found elsewhere in Dane County.

### **Andrew Schaeffer & Friends**

**Friday, Sep. 12 | 7 pm**

Andrew Schaeffer and members of the UW faculty, Madison Symphony members, and others present a diverse program to dedicate our new continuo organ.

### **3rd Annual Bach Cantata Vespers**

**Sunday, Oct. 26 | 4 pm**

The cantata, when coupled with the scripture readings and hymns that inspired Bach, comes to life in a profound way.

The Luther Memorial Adult Choir with Just Bach present Bach's Cantata 140 *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*.

### **Lessons & Carols for Advent**

**Sunday, Nov. 30 | 4 pm**

Based on the famed service of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, this service features readings, hymns and anthems performed by the Luther Memorial Adult & Children's choirs. It is a stirring way to begin your holiday season!

