

New Year's Eve Concert

at Central Reformed Church

featuring concert organist

Christopher Houlihan



Tuesday, December 31, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

Central Reformed Church
10 College Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503



Christopher Houlihan
Concert Organist

New Year's Eve Concert
Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

The Dancing Pipes	Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)
Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Carillon de Westminster, from 24 Pièces de Fantasie, opus 54	Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

INTERMISSION

Suite, opus 5 Prelude – Sicilienne – Toccata	Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)
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Auld Lang Syne (c. 1870)	Scottish folksong, text by Robert Burns (1759-1796)
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*1. Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days of auld lang syne?*

Chorus:
*For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne;
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*2. And there's a hand, my trusty friend!
And give us a hand o'thine!
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

Chorus

*~ Thank you so much for coming. We hope you enjoyed this concert.
Please join us again for other concerts and events at Central. ~*

About Today's Concert Organist, Christopher Houlihan

The organist **Christopher Houlihan** has established an international reputation as a "passionate and intelligently virtuoso musician" (*Gramophone*), hailed for "glowing, miraculously life-affirming performances" (*Los Angeles Times*). His playing has been praised as "eloquent" (*The New York Times*), "dazzling" (*The Wall Street Journal*), and "first-class" (*The Diapason*). Houlihan has concertized at major concert venues throughout the United States, including the Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), the Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), Davies Symphony Hall (San Francisco), and Walt Disney Concert Hall, where he performed with the principal Brass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The *Los Angeles Times* raved about his Disney Hall debut, proclaiming, "Houlihan is the next big organ talent."

Houlihan's performances in the 2024–25 season include solo recitals at the Aspen Music Festival (Colorado), and at Riverside Church and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, both in New York. As orchestral soloist, he will appear with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (Carolyn Kuan, conductor) performing concerti by Hanson and Guilmant, and with the Holland (MI) Symphony Orchestra (Johannes Müller Stosch, conductor) performing Samuel Barber's *Toccata Festiva*. Recent performances include solo recitals presented by the Madison Symphony Orchestra (Wisconsin), the Pacific Symphony (Costa Mesa, CA), and the Celebrity Recital Series at St. Paul's Cathedral (London).

Noted for his compelling performances of Louis Vierne's organ works, Houlihan's "Vierne 2012" tour attracted international attention and critical acclaim for marathon recitals of the composer's six symphonies in six major North American cities. The *Los Angeles Times* called his performance there "a major surprise of the summer, a true revelation." Building on this excitement, Houlihan's most recent recording features Vierne's Symphony No. 6 and César Franck's *Grande Piece Symphonique*. Released in 2023 by Azica Records, *First and Last* was praised by *The American Organist*, remarking, "as for Houlihan himself, he just keeps getting better." Previous recordings include *Christopher Houlihan plays Bach* (Azica), music by Maurice Duruflé and Jehan Alain, and Organ Symphony No. 2 by Louis Vierne, both on Towerhill Records.

Christopher Houlihan's orchestral credits include Jongen's *Symphonie Concertante* and Barber's *Toccata Festiva* with the Hartford Symphony; Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the Waterbury (CT) and Columbus (GA) Symphonies; and the Organ Concerto by Robert Edward Smith with the Boston Chamber Orchestra. He has been presented in recital at numerous conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. In 2017, he was the featured performer at the closing concert of the AGO Regional Convention at Jacoby Symphony Hall in Jacksonville, where he presented the world premiere of Han Lash's *Ludus* (written specifically for Houlihan). In 2014, he performed in a prime-time slot of WQXR's All-Day Bach Organ Marathon in New York City which was webcast live and seen by thousands.

Christopher Houlihan serves on the faculty of Trinity College, Hartford, as the John Rose Distinguished College Organist, Director of Chapel Music, and Artist-in-Residence. Since 2022, he is also Artistic Director of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford, presenter of one of the premier North American competitions for young organists.

In addition to studies at Trinity College with John Rose, Houlihan studied with Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School and with Jean-Baptiste Robin at the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles. In 2015, he was selected for *The Diapason's* "20 Under 30," a distinguished list of young leaders in the organ world. More information is at **ChristopherHoulihan.com**.

Audio or video recording of this recital, using any device, without prior written consent is strictly prohibited.

Christopher Houlihan is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC

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Upcoming Public Concert at Central Reformed Church in 2025

The Sound of Vienna | Sunday, May 18, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Central's Chancel Choir with local guest singers and a chamber orchestra will present a concert on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 4 p.m. The program will highlight the Music of Vienna in the classical period (late 18th through the early 19th century) featuring W.A. Mozart, J. Haydn, and F. Schubert. The program will include Haydn's Organ Concerto, Hob. XVIII:8 in C Major, Trumpet Concerto, Hob. VIIe:1 in E-flat Major, and Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo, Hob. XXII:7 in B-flat Major (Little Organ Mass) under the direction of Central's Director of Music Ministries, Taemin Han.

For the concert, two guest solo musicians will be with us: Organist Dr. Caroline Robinson from the University of Michigan and Trumpeter Dr. Alex Wilson from Grand Valley State University. Dr. Robinson became a new addition to the organ faculty of the University of Michigan in the fall of 2024. She will have an organ recital at LaGrave Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids on Friday, May 16, sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of American Guild of Organists, two days prior to the concert at Central Reformed Church.

Today's concert is cosponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Like what you hear? Consider supporting the programming of the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists by donating to the Chapter. Find our PayPal donation page by using the QR code below or by navigating to <https://tinyurl.com/GRAGODonations>.



In addition to giving to the chapter's general fund, you may choose to support young organists by contributing to the Rotman Competition Fund or the Boomsma Young Organist (scholarship) Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!



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616.456.1773
centralreformedchurch.org

Connecting all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service.