

Sunday, October 15, 2023

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Michael Gagne Organ

The Sound of a Great Amen

Fanfare	Michael Gagne (b. 1983)
Rubrics I The Peace May Be Exchanged	Dan Locklair (b. 1949)
Praeludium in C Major, BuxWV137	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Cantabile No. 2	Enrico Pasini (1935-2002)
Toccata on Christ the Lord Easter Hymn	Diane Bish (b. 1941)
Ellyllon	Hans Andre Stamm (b. 1958)
This Little Light of Mine Lattimer	John Behnke (b. 1953)
Benedictus, Op. 9, No. 2	Max Reger (1873-1916)
The Lost Chord	

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Michael Gagne is an active musician and has performed organ recitals all over Illinois. Some notable churches that Michael has performed at have been St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston, First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights, North Park Covenant Church in Chicago, Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, and various other churches.

In May of 2012, Michael graduated from North Park University in Chicago where he obtained the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. While at North Park, Michael was instrumental in developing the annual "Hymn Festival Series" in 2009 which continues to this very day.

In 2003, Michael obtained the Service Playing Certificate (SPC) from the American Guild of Organists and as of July 2023, Michael successfully passed the requirements for the Colleague of the American Guild of Organists (C.A.G.O.) exam. Michael is a member of the Illinois North Shore American Guild of Organists Chapter.

Some of Michael's instructors have been Dr. Marilyn Kay Stulken of Racine, Wisconsin, Dr. Marcia van Oyen, Dr. David Christiansen, and while at North Park he studied the organ under Mr. Leon Nelson.

Currently in his 9th year, Michael is the Principal Organist/Music Associate at the historic Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Hawthorn Woods where he is responsible for accompanying the Chancel Choir, Glory Singers (TTBB group), and various ensembles throughout the church. From 2015-2018, Michael was Saint Matthew Lutheran Day School's General Music Teacher teaching Pre-School through 6th grade music. He continues to teach music as the Sunday School Music teacher.

In 2019, Michael was an advisor on the new organ search committee and recommended a unanimous vote for the three-manual Rodgers Infinity 361 which was installed in May, 2019.

Michael has previously served congregations in Arlington Heights at Faith Lutheran Church as Minister of Music from 2011-2014, Director of Music at Grace Lutheran Church in Villa Park from 2009-2011 and Organist/Choir Accompanist at the historic Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Bluff from 2009.

"A Lost Chord"

Seated one day at the organ, I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly Over the noisy keys
I know not what I was playing, Or what I was dreaming then;
But I struck one chord of music, Like the sound of a great Amen.

It flooded the crimson twilight, Like the close of an angel's psalm,
And it lay on my fevered spirit With a touch of infinite calm.
It quieted pain and sorrow, Like love overcoming strife;
It seemed the harmonious echo From our discordant life.

It linked all perplexed meanings Into one perfect peace,
And trembled away into silence As if it were loth to cease.
I have sought, but I seek it vainly, That one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the organ, And entered into mine.
It may be that death's bright angel Will speak in that chord again,
It may be that only in Heav'n I shall hear that grand Amen.

lyrics by Adelaide Anne Procter, published 1858.