



Grace Will Lead Me Home

A Farewell Organ Concert

by Yu-Hsiang Abby Chen

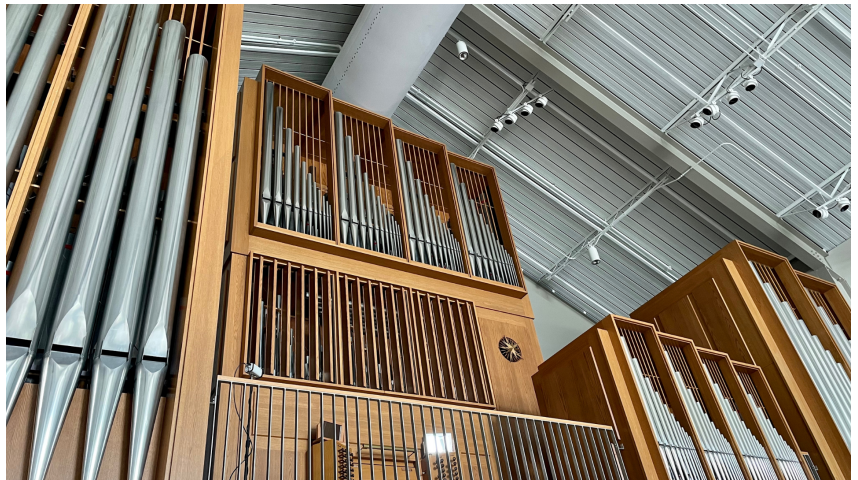
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

140 Gathering Place Lane, Iowa City

7 p.m. | Monday Oct. 27, 2025

The Instrument

Casavant Frères Opus 3105 (1971), now known as the **Krapf Organ**, has been described as the crowning element of the University of Iowa's arts campus. Designed and installed under the leadership of University of Iowa organ professor **Gerhard Krapf**, the instrument reflected the ideals of the Organ Reform Movement—a return to mechanical action and classical tonal design that balanced precision with expressive power.



For nearly four decades, this remarkable instrument filled **Clapp Recital Hall** with sound. Students practiced on it into the night, and guest artists from around the world came to perform. Casavant once considered Opus 3105 among its most frequently played instruments, serving the university community for an estimated 120 hours each week.

When the Iowa River flooded in 2008, Clapp Hall was damaged beyond repair and the organ fell silent. Five years later, **St. Andrew Presbyterian Church** partnered with **Dobson Pipe Organ Builders** of Lake City, Iowa, to bring it back to life. Crews and volunteers carefully salvaged its three manuals, four divisions, 52 stops, 73 ranks, 32 pedal notes, and 3,796 pipes, beginning a multi-year process of restoration and renewal.

On **Easter Sunday 2018**, the organ sounded again—its first notes in a new sanctuary marking both a resurrection and a homecoming. Later that year, St. Andrew dedicated the instrument in honor of **Gerhard Krapf**, who had overseen its original design and served as an elder in the congregation.

Today, the **Krapf Organ** continues to serve as a bridge between academic excellence and congregational worship—its voice carrying forward a legacy of faith, artistry, and community that has endured across generations and even across floodwaters.

Today's performance supports the ongoing care and maintenance of the Krapf Organ. Gifts may be placed in the offering plates located at the back of the Sanctuary, or made online at tinyurl.com/krapf-organ.

‘Grace Will Lead Me Home’: A Farewell Organ Recital

featuring Yu-Hsiang Abby Chen

I. ‘Through Many Dangers, Toils, and Snares’

Congregational Singing: *How Great Thou Art* (red hymnal, #553)

- Verse 1, all; 2, upper voices; 3, lower voices; 4, all

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) | *Prelude and Fugue in C minor*

II. ‘Twas Grace That Taught My Heart to Fear, and Grace My Fears Relieved’

Improvisation on Children’s Hymns (featuring J.S. Bach’s *Toccata in D Minor*)

- *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*
- *Do Not Be Afraid*
- *Jesus Loves Me*

Fela Sowande (1905-1987) | *Go Down, Moses*

III. ‘How Precious Did That Grace Appear’

Dan Locklair (b. 1949) | *The People Respond: Amen*

Chorale Prelude Improvisation | *Here I Am, Lord*

IV. ‘Grace Hath Brought Me Safe Thus Far, and Grace Will Lead Me Home’

Louis Vierne (1870-1937) | *Final from Symphony No. 1*

Improvisation and Congregational Singing: *Fantasy on Amazing Grace*

- Join the singing on verses 1 and 5 (red hymnal, #691)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) | *Toccata from Symphony 5*

The Performer

Dr. Yu-Hsiang Abby Chen is an award-winning organist, educator, and church musician from Taiwan. She recently earned her **Doctor of Musical Arts** degree from the **University of Iowa**, where she studied with **Dr. Gregory Hand** and served as a teaching assistant with a full scholarship. Her doctoral research explored how classical repertoire can serve as a model for teaching improvisation.

She holds a **Master of Music** degree from the **Manhattan School of Music**, where she studied with **McNeil Robinson** and **Dr. Gail Archer**, and a **Performance Diploma** from **Indiana University**, where she studied with **Dr. Janette Fishell**.

In Taiwan, Dr. Chen has been active in both performance and education, serving as a lecturer at **Taiwan Theological College and Seminary** and as **Dean of the American Guild of Organists, Taiwan Chapter**. Her acclaimed album *Singing Organ in the Rainy Night: Hear the Oldest Organ in Taiwan* received **two Golden Melody Awards** for Traditional Arts and Music—**Best Performance** and **Best Recording**—and was nominated in five categories. The album is available on streaming platforms such as **Spotify** and **Apple Music**. She is also co-author, with **Dr. Melody Chen**, of *The Fruit of the Spirit: A Practical Handbook for Church Musicians*.

Dr. Chen has performed with the **Taipei Symphony Orchestra**, **National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra**, and **The Missouri Symphony**, among others. A proud mother of three, she continues to share her love of music—and her gift for inspiring faith through sound—wherever life takes her.

On Sunday, Dr. Chen concludes three years of ministry as **Organist and Accompanist** for **St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**, where she has cherished the opportunity to make music in worship alongside the choir and congregation.

As we celebrate Dr. Chen's time among us and her next chapter of ministry and music, we give thanks for her faith, skill, and spirit that have filled St. Andrew's worship with beauty and joy.



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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