

AN APÉRITIF TO WHET YOUR MUSICAL APPETITE

by William "Bill" Becker Convention Co-Chair, Publicity

ou are cordially invited...on behalf of the State Board of Directors, it is my heartfelt pleasure to extend to you our invitation to the MTAC Pre-Convention Pipe Organ Concert at the historic Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, located close to our Convention site, the beautiful San Jose Fairmont Hotel.

This pipe organ concert is offered to MTAC members, attendees, students and their families attending the Convention, as well as the community at large, to give an opportunity to hear masterworks for organ composed by our beloved piano composers as well

as adaptations and arrangements of piano music for organ.

This event's purpose is to foster goodwill and collegiality within the music community at-large and to introduce our student Convention families and guests to musical venues that will broaden their musical appreciation and experience.

Mr. Rallanka will perform on the magnificent Odell Tracker pipe organ built in 1886. This organ is one of only four Odells of this style in the United States and the only surviving Odell instrument in its original condition on the West Coast.

MTAC has previously embraced collaboration between organ concerts and Convention. Irene Brown, our



MTAC historian notes some of these events in our publication: "Music Teachers' Association of California 100th Anniversary of State Conventions: From Talking Machines to Twitter – a Commemorative Booklet." There were pre-Convention organ concerts in 1929, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1969, and 2001. With our organ concert in 2015, the tradition continues.

In this Cathedral concert, the ethereal and sublime culminate in an continued >

atmosphere of solemnity, reverence, sacred architecture, and perhaps even the music of the spheres! We urge you to take advantage of this pre-Convention organ concert.

We are honored that Mr. Rallanka graciously accepted our invitation. We also wish to acknowledge and thank the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, and Julie Wind, Director of Artistic & Cultural Affairs, San Jose Cathedral Foundation, for the generosity expressed in opening the Cathedral for

our 2015 MTAC Convention. Thank you. In anticipation of Convention and the exciting Pre-Convention Organ Concert, see you there!

This recital will be dedicated in the memory of Barbara Wieman, Sacramento County Branch. Ms. Wieman was Rexphil Rallanka's piano teacher during high school.

Rexphil Rallanka is Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento, California. He is also a choral teacher at Jesuit



Rexphil Rallanka

High School in Carmichael, California. He holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame, where he earned the Master of Music in Organ Performance and Literature and the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a second major in Piano Performance. He has studied organ with Craig Cramer, Marian Ruhl Metson, Gail Walton, and Paul Thornock. He has studied piano with Tamara Gurevich, Anne Duhamel, and Barbara Wieman.

A lover of mechanical action organs, Mr. Rallanka has performed on some of the most notable tracker organs in the country, including pipe organs by Paul Fritts (Opus 5, Opus 13, Opus 25), Munetaka Yokota (Opus 1 and Opus 3), Fritz Noack (Opus 94), Michael Bigelow (Opus 21), and Lee Lovallo. He has appeared as a feature artist in Music in the Mountains (Grass Valley, CA), in the Grand Rapids Bach Festival, and with the Camellia Symphony. He has given recitals in Germany and the Roman Catholic Cathedrals of Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Mr. Rallanka is a member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), and has held the positions of Dean and Subdean of the Sacramento Chapter of the AGO. He has also sat on the board of the Sacramento Children's Chorus (SCC), and recently on the SCC advisory board.

