

Organist Rhonda Sider Edgington is a creative and eclectic musician, with a diverse repertoire and wide range of musical interests. Often commended for her innovative programming, imaginative use of registrations, and exciting playing, Rhonda feels equally at home performing on a wide variety of instruments, from small 2 manual, 17th century organs in Germany to large 5 manual organs in the US.

Having spent seven years working and studying in Bremen, Germany (originally with a Fulbright scholarship to study with Prof. Harald Vogel), Rhonda has acquired an extensive repertoire, from Sweelinck and the music of 17th-century Northern Germany, through music of 19th- and 20th-century France, to the music of living composers. She has played recitals at venues across the US, on many notable European-influenced instruments such as the Richards, Fowkes at University of Tennessee/ Knoxville, the Pasi at St Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, the Taylor and Boody at Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton, VA, the Beckerath at St Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh, the Flentrop at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, and the Fritts at Arizona State University. She has also performed on many modern, eclectic instruments such as the Moller at West Point Cadet Chapel in NY, the Skinner at Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago, and the Goulding & Wood at Loyola University, as well as on many historic organs in Germany, such as the Schnitger in Norden, the Silbermann in Freiberg and the Hildebrandt in Naumburg. She has played at seven national conventions of the Organ Historical Society and three regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. She has also been heard on the nationally syndicated radio program "Pipedreams" and is currently Dean of the Holland Area American Guild of Organist Chapter.

Rhonda has worked as a church musician since her student days, and has held jobs in almost every major denomination here in the states, as well as working as a church musician in Germany. As organ teacher, Rhonda was Assistant Professor at Concordia University, River Forest (IL), Interim Professor of Organ at Houghton College (NY), and now teaches at Calvin University in Grand Rapids. She also enjoys playing the harpsichord, piano, and carillon, and is an avid chamber musician.

Rhonda studied in Germany with Harald Vogel, Hans-Ola Ericsson, and Hans Davidsson, and in the U.S. with Larry Smith, Marilyn Keiser, John Chappell Stowe, Edward Zimmerman, and her father Ronald Sider. She has a Master's degree in Organ from Indiana University, a Bachelor's degree in Piano from Wheaton College (IL), and a Diploma in Organ Performance from the Hochschule für Künste/ University of the Arts in Bremen, Germany, where she was awarded the highest possible grade for her graduation recitals. She helped lead an educational tour for the European chapter of the American Guild of Organists in 2011 to visit organs of Northern Germany, was Dean of the Holland AGO for 7 years, and has served in various leadership positions with the AGO.

In addition to solo recitals, teaching, church work, and chamber music, another of Edgington's passions is dreaming up creative collaborative projects. In 2013, she performed concerts with the NYC-based trombone quartet Guidonian Hand, including their own arrangement of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D-minor for organ and trombone quartet. In 2014, she performed the complete Les Corps Glorieux of Messiaen at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo with members of the Farrell Ballet Theatre performing an original work. 2015 brought the premiere of friend and colleague Steve Jenkin's Sonata for Marimba and Organ in Holland, MI with David Hall, assistant principal percussionist with the Grand Rapids Symphony. In 2017, she performed a concert with calligrapher Tim Botts, creating original artwork inspired by live organ music. In the same year, she also performed the first of their "Battle of the organs", with Hammond B3 master Tony Monaco, playing jazz-influenced classical music in contrast to his jazz standards. In 2018, she created a concert around the theme War and Peace, to perform in Germany, celebrating the centennial of the Armistice of

WWI, which she also performed at West Point in NY. 2019-20 brought two big projects - a collaborating with Urban Garden Performing Arts to create a performance with dancers and actors around the book of Revelations for a local congregation (using Langlais' Cinq Meditations sur l'Apocalypse), supported by a grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship. She also partnered with world musicians for a series of concerts throughout Michigan for organ and percussion - Music of Japan. Years in the making, this project was supported by an AGO grant to commission a new piece by American composer Carson Cooman for organ, marimba, and Taiko drummers. It also featured the American premiere of the large-scale work for organ and Taiko drum, Fujin Raijin by Takihude Niimi .

Rhonda lives with her family in Holland, Michigan, where she is the Music Director and Organist at Hope Church and Organ Instructor at Calvin University, while continuing to perform regularly in the U.S. and abroad. When not making music, she enjoys riding her bike, reading and writing, and facilitating writing circles with women in transitional housing at Holland's Harbor House. Her website <http://rhonda.edgington.info> contains photos and recordings of some of her favorite pipe organs.