

YEARBOOK LOSSES – 2025 – An Inevitably Incomplete List

Patricia Barragan Schrek (b. 3/1/29 - d. 1/2/25, age 95)...longtime organist at the Cathedral Basilica of St.

John the Baptist in Savannah, GA. Was organist-choir director there for 66 years!

<https://southerncrosssav.org/newswire/diocesan-news/patty-schreck-longtime-cathedral-organist-and-st-vincent-s-music-teacher-passes-away-at-age-95>

John Allen Ferguson (b. 1/27/41 - d. 1/5/25, age 83)...well known organist, teacher and composer, for many years at St. Olaf College <https://wp.stolaf.edu/music/2025/01/johnferguson/>

Richard Alexander (b. 4/16/46 – d. 1/14/25, age 78) – for 38 years organist at St. Paul's Chestnut Hill, PA.

<https://stpaulschestnuthill.org/rick-alexander-remembered/>

Robert Powell (b. 1932-d. 1/17/25, age 92)...popular American church organist and composer

<https://watchfiremusic.com/profile/robert-j-powell>

Leopoldas Digrys (b.9/8/34 – d. 1/19/25, age 90)...Lithuanian organ legend, for 41 years professor at the national conservatory <http://www.musicperformers.lt/Leopoldas-Digrys?lang=1>

Sigbert Rampe (b. February 9, 1964 -d. February 2, 2025, age 60) – German musicologist and publisher

<https://www.bach-cantatas.com/Bio/Rampe-Siegbert.htm>

Bernard Lagacé (b. November 21, 1930 – d. February 11, 2025, age 94) – influential Canadian organist, harpsichordist and teacher, a profound influence in the early organ-reform movement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Lagac%C3%A9

Lorraine Brugh (b. 3/20/52 - d. 1/25/25, age 72)...church musician, Valparaiso University professor and

Organist <https://alcm.org/in-memorial-lorraine-brugh/>

Simon Lindley (b. 10/10/48 – d. 2/25/25, age 76) – master of music at Leeds Minster for 41 years, emeritus Leeds City Organist, and a president of the Royal College of Organists

<https://leedsminster.org/dr-simon-lindley-1948-2025/>

Eduardo Bellotti (b. ??? - d. February 27, 2025, age 67) – exceptional organist/harpsichordist, specialist in Renaissance and Baroque music, taught at the Eastman School

<https://www.hfk-bremen.de/en/news/prof-dr-edoardo-bellotti/1112>

Here is a link to the memorial concert presented at Eastman in his honor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntQpXJ-Ehfw>

Brian Williams (b. 12/7/61 – d. 2/27/25, age 63), longtime organist at Calvary Episcopal Church, Rochester, MN, more recently at St. Olaf Lutheran, Austin, MN.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/brian-williams-obituary?id=57831195>

Morgan F. Simmons (b. 4/6/29 – d. 2/28/25, age 95) – longtime organist at 4th Presbyterian Church, Chicago

<https://www.thediapason.com/news/morgan-f-simmons-dead-95>

Russel Shaner (d.3/21/25, age 82) – the anchor man in the Wurlitzer organ project at the Rochester NY Auditorium Theatre <https://rtosonline.org/russ-shaner-memorial/>

Nicolas Kynaston (b.12/10/41 – d. 3/26/25, age 85) – virtuoso recitalist, influential teacher and organ project advisor

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/17-april/gazette/obituaries/obituary-nicolas-kynaston>

A PIPEDREAMS program in his memory was broadcast in August

<https://www.pipedreams.org/episode/2025/08/25/contemplating-kynaston>

Olena Kohut, Ukrainian organist, killed by Russian bombing of the city of Sumy (d. 4/13/25)

<https://kyivindependent.com/ukrainian-orchestra-musician-olena-kohut-killed-in-deadly-russian-attack-on-sumy/>

Karel Paukert (b. 1/1/35 – d. 4/30/25, age 91)...Czech-American organist, teacher, curator, new-music

advocate, improviser and wonderful human being.

<https://www.brown-forward.com/obituaries/karel-paukert>

Paul Fejko (7/9/57 - d. 5-5-25, age 67) – multi-skilled prodigious and iconoclastic Philadelphia-area musician, a brilliant improviser, singularly imaginative and unrepentant ‘hippie holdover’, an unforgettable character taken too soon. <https://www.fejko.com/>

Robert Clarke (‘Bob’) Newton (7/9/39 – d. 5/6/25 at age 85, historic restoration specialist at the Andover Organ Company, for which he worked for 53 ½ years. A tireless and genial advocate for 19th century American pipe organs. <https://www.facebook.com/100063518195304/posts/robert-clarke-bob-newton-who-restored-many-historic-american-organs-during-his-5/1294079472719314/>

Alena Stepankova-Vesela (b. 7/7/1923 – d. 5/10/2025, age 101), Czech organist and teacher at the Janacek Academy in Brno, died two months short of her 102nd birthday.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alena_Vesel%C3%A1

Joan Lippincott (b. 12/25/35-d. 5/31/25, age 89)...an irrepressible spirit, world-travelling recitalist, prolific recording artist, and influential organ professor at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, whose musical insights and generous spirit influences so many young musicians.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Lippincott#External_links A PIPEDREAMS tribute aired in September <https://www.pipedreams.org/episode/2025/09/22/joan-of-art>

Karen McFarlane Holtkamp (b. 1942 - d. 6/3/25, age 83) – longtime artist representative and advocate, the friend of everyone in the world of the pipe organ.

<https://www.thediapason.com/news/karen-mcfarlane-holtkamp-dead-83>

Pierre Cogen (b. 10/2/31 – d. 7/3/25, age 93) – French organist, composer and teacher, pupil of Jean Langlais and his successor at the Church of St. Clothilde

<https://www.thediapason.com/news/pierre-cogen-dead-93>

Hal Hopson (b. 6/12/33 – d. 7/20/25, age 92) – a renowned American composer of sacred music

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hal_Hopson

Sue Goddard (b. 9/25/34 – d. 8/9/2025, age 91)...the ‘grande dame’ of the Atlanta organ and church music Scene, ‘more than an institution’ Alan Morrison said, an organist at Grace United Methodist Church, for 69 years, and extraordinary and superb musician, teacher and supporter of many.

<https://www.asturner.com/obituaries/sue-goddard>

Kenneth H. Holden (b. 2/10/1936 – d. 8/14/2025, age 89)...revered organ technician and historian who, with his wife Dorothy, fought successfully for the preservation of E. M. Skinner pipe organs in and around Detroit, and ‘wrote the book’ on this famous American builder.

<https://www.detroitnews.com/obituaries/pdet1277326>

Joachim Grubich (b. 1/16/35 – d. 8/16/25, age 90) – internationally esteemed Polish organist and teacher

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joachim_Grubich

Jean-Paul Imbert (b. 1942 – d. 9/8/25, age 83) charismatic French teacher at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, performer and recording artist, titulaire of the famous Kleuker organ at Our Lady of the Snows Church in Alpe d’Huez. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Paul_Imbert

Dr. James Abbingdon (b. ?? – d. 9-27-25, age 65), a towering figure in the Black church, organist, composer, editor and renowned professor of music and worship at the Candler School of Theology at Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA <https://ccms.music.baylor.edu/news/story/2025/remembering-dr-w-james-jimmie-abbington>

Martin Neary (b. 3/28/40 - d. 9-27-2025, age 85) – esteemed organist and choir conductor at Winchester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Neary

Judith Eckerman Hancock (b. 10/18/34 – d. 10/10/25, age just short of 81), wife and musical partner of Gerre

Hancock and a superb and distinguished soloist and church musician on her own

<https://www.saintthomaschurch.org/2025/10/21/a-service-of-thanksgiving-for-the-life-of-dr-judith-hancock/>

David Christian Jensen (b. // - d. 10/21/25, age ??) – a longtime Minnesota friend and colleague, fixture of the Twin Cities organ and culinary scenes

<https://obituaries.startribune.com/obituary/david-jensen-1093308779>

Culver (“Cullie”) L. Mowers (b. 9/9/42 – d. 10/20/25), age 83, a music-minded minister (Episcopal) and long-time tracker-backer and member/president of the Organ Historical Society

<https://ithacavoice.org/2025/12/obituary-culver-lunn-mowers/>

Matthias Schuke (b. 7/7/55 – d. 11/15/25, age 70) important East German organ builder located in Potsdam who, post-unification, re-privatized the family firm and continued to do important work, known for instruments at St. Thomas Church (recorded by E. Power Biggs) and the Gewandhaus, and important restorations in Magdeburg, Erfurt, Tangermünde and Schwerin, as well as in Mexico, Poland, Schwerin and Russia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthias_Schuke

Guy Morañon (December 5, 1927–November 25, 2025...died just short of his 99th birthday), French organist, composer, conservatory director and conductor, lauded by Messiaen as a ‘true musician’.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Moran%C3%A7on

Giles Bryant (b. 6/20/34 – d. 11/?/25, age 91) Canadian church music icon who succeeded Healey Willan at St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto, also served at St. James Cathedral, Toronto

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/giles-bryant-scholarship-9.6999272>

Frank Gehry (b. 2/28/29 – d. 12/5/25, age 96)...designer of the visual aspect of the memorably iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall organ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry

Robert Bergford (b. January 1966 – d. 12/1/25, age 59) a Twin Cities organ technician

<https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/robert-bergford/#!/Obituary>

Kristin Gronning Farmer (b. // - d. 12/8/25, age 78)...church musician and recitalist, another former OHS President

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/winstonsalem/name/kristin-farmer-obituary?id=60265630>

George Mimms (b. 7/16/38 – d. 12/10/25, age 87) – highly respected Episcopal church musician.

<https://www.millerfuneral.com/obituaries/George-Ellis-Mims?obId=46679624>

Still Alive!

W. Robert Morrison (b. October 5, 1925) – the **centenary** of one of Canton, Ohio’s most beloved musicians, graduate of the Peabody Conservatory and Westminster Choir College, former student of Marcel Dupre and Rolande Falcinelli at the Paris Conservatoire, and most recently organist at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Canton, where he has served (in ‘retirement’) since 1997.

<https://www.facebook.com/CantonRep/posts/w-robert-morrison-has-been-playing-organ-music-in-stark-area-churches-for-80-yea/1405903758206556/>

(1:45) GUY BOVET: *Das alte Jahr vergangen ist* –Guy Bovet (1993 Woehl/St. Petri Church, Cuxhaven, Germany) Dabringhaus & Grimm 320 0675