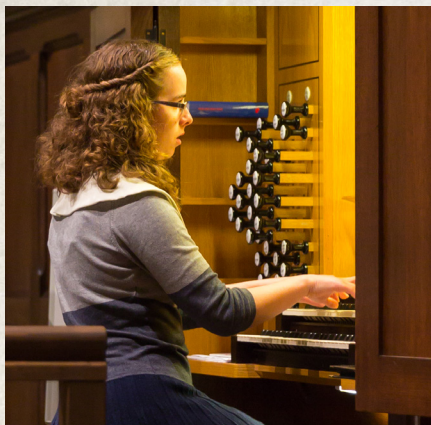


# Student Spotlight



**HANNAH KOBY** - Senior Church Music Major from Kent, Ohio

A community of support with a fulfilling worship life is part of what draws Hannah to Valparaiso University. One of her communities is found in the Chorale, where she said she is continually challenged to grow as a musician. She said it's a gift to make music with the Chorale, and she is meaningfully impacted by sharing this music with others on campus, across the country and abroad. In her summer 2017 internship at the Castle Church, Hannah helped plan the Hymn Festival, making her performance in this historic celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation especially breathtaking for her, as the Chorale connected their voices to people past and present, near and far. Hannah is planning on becoming a church musician, with hopes of working in worship planning, liturgical theology and research/writing, leading liturgies and hymns from the organ, performing and working with other musicians.

**ANDREW FLASCH** - Junior Actuarial Science Major from Valparaiso, Ind.

Andrew enjoys a campus full of open doors at Valparaiso University, where he sees professors' commitment to individual students by their willingness to provide advice not only on classes, but also on career and personal goals and struggles. In the Chorale, Andrew finds himself working with fellow students in an environment that merges their collective passion for music and shared purpose of connecting to something bigger than themselves. As a lifelong Lutheran, he found performing at Castle Church indescribably significant, both spiritually and personally. He also saw the impact of the Chorale in Seyda, where he said he had never seen such pure and absolute happiness in a human being than the reaction Reverend Meinhof had when the Chorale arrived in the village. Andrew's dream job is to be a film composer, but for now, he is looking to earn his Fellow of the Society of Actuaries designation, get married and start a big family.



**LUKE MCGINNIS** - Sophomore Music Education Major from Alsip, Ill.

A friendly community, outstanding faculty and incredible opportunities are a few cornerstones of Luke's Valpo experience. He has fostered a family within the Chorale, in which he interacts musically with others daily. Luke said the Chorale is a musical force that brings out the best in everyone and has helped him to become a better musician. The chance to perform the music of J.S. Bach with the Thomanerchor and Leipzig Baroque Orchestra in the St. Thomas Church under Thomaskantor Gotthold Schwarz was an unparalleled experience for Luke. He also said he will always treasure performing the world premiere of *Into the Light* and the intensive rehearsal leading up to it. He hopes to become a high school or collegiate music director and to be able to provide his students with the opportunities he has been given at Valpo.

**AKIRA KENNEDY** - Freshman Social Work Major from Naperville, Ill.

Valparaiso University has a welcoming atmosphere that entices Akira. She gets along with the people, enjoys the classes that are offered and appreciates the countless activities available to students to get involved on campus. Akira has already learned a great deal during her time at Valpo in the Chorale. She said she has built lasting friendships with her fellow Chorale members, and as a non-music major, she has especially enjoyed having the ensemble as an outlet for her love of music. The biggest highlight of the Chorale's trip to Germany for the Reformation Tour was the bell dedication in Seyda, according to Akira. She said she was humbled by the fact the citizens in the village wanted to share that special moment with the Chorale and enjoyed how happy they were to be together. In the future, Akira hopes to become a clinical social worker, and said she would ideally like to be a travelling one, if such a job exists.

