

**American Guild of Organists - Peoria Chapter**  
**July 27, 2007**  
**Redeemer Lutheran Church, Peoria, Illinois**

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**The classic silent film 'The General' with Buster Keaton  
(1927, 75 minutes) Organ improvisation by Tom Trenney**

**Tom Trenney** is widely recognized as a master of the art of silent film accompaniment. His repertoire includes a broad spectrum of classic and contemporary works for organ, transcriptions, and organ improvisation. As organist and director of Music Ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Michigan, he currently oversees a comprehensive choir program and the popular Birmingham-First Chamber Choir, a select ensemble of 20 singers from throughout Southeastern Michigan. Trenney's first CD recording, *Organa Americana*, was released in 2005. He recently joined the faculty of Oakland University as conductor of the Oakland Chorale.

**Trenney** has studied and received degrees in organ performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and in 2002 received two graduate degrees from the acclaimed Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. His principal teachers have included David Higgs and Todd Wilson. Tom earned both the Service Playing and Colleague Professional Certificates from the AGO before he was 16 years old-becoming one of the youngest applicants ever to do so. Tom has won first prize at several major competitions, including the 1999 AGO Region V (Midwest) Competition for Young Artists. Trenney has directed two Pipe Organ Encounters promoting the pipe organ among youth, and has been featured in recitals at the 2004 AGO National Convention in Los Angeles and the National Convention of the Organ Historical Society in Buffalo, the 2003 AGO Region V Convention in Cleveland, among others. He was a featured artist in dedicatory recitals in May 2006 at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, on the largest concert hall organ in the USA. In 2006 – 2007, he has been invited to serve as organist for annual conferences of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. He is included in a series of "Conservatory Stars" featured at Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York City, performing on July 19, 2007.