

Esteemed organist tours Westman for debut performances in Canada

BY JOANNE F. VILLENEUVE

Uganda-born and raised organist Patrick Kabanda will give his Canadian debut recital in Brandon.

"I learned about the Prairies in Canada when I was taking geography in high school in Uganda. I've never been to Canada and I'm looking forward to my visit there," he said from his office in Andover, Mass.

In the early 1980s, at the age of eight, he began to sing in the Namirembe Cathedral choir in Kampala. Soon after, he found himself intrigued by the organ.

"I thought it was such a cool instrument and it triggered my interest," Kabanda said.

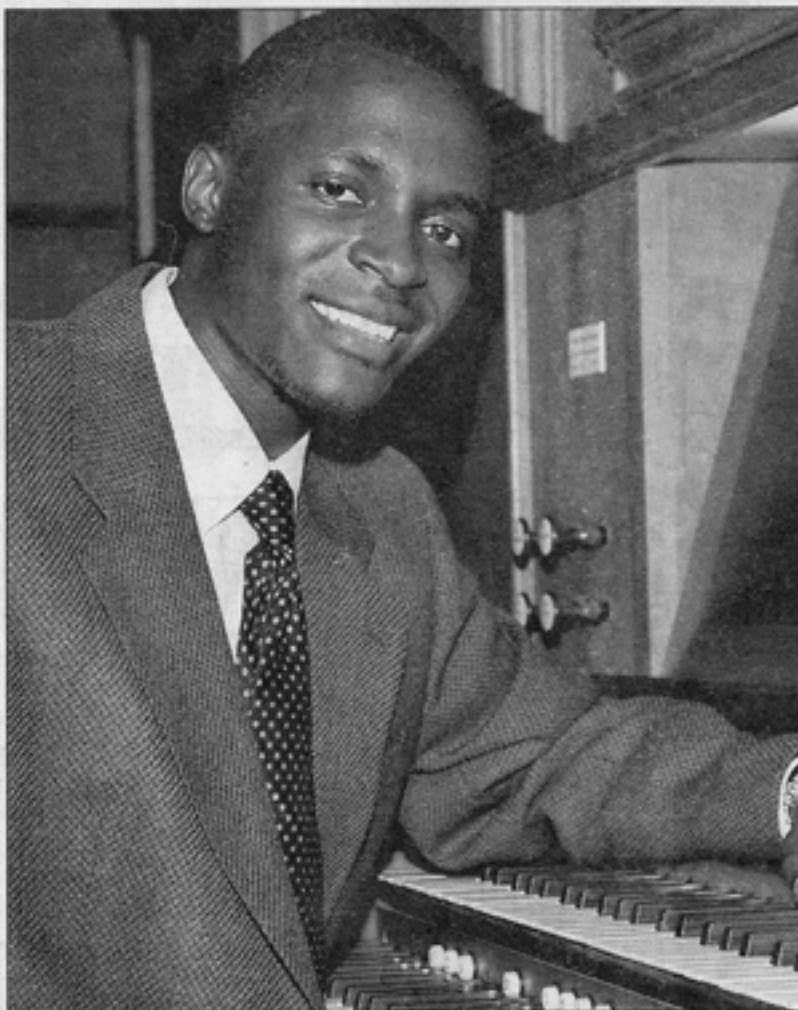
The choir program also offered reading music, solfège, ear training and keyboard skills, which he developed even more on his own. In his late teens, to raise money for his education, he played the piano at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala.

His talent was recognized by an American tourist at the hotel, and consequently, he was offered a scholarship to study at Brevard College in North Carolina in 1996.

He has been in North America ever since.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, where he received both a bachelor and a master of music degrees, Kabanda has been performing in prestigious venues in the United States, England, South Africa and he now teaches music at Phillips Academy, in Andover.

The program for his tour includes works by Willan, Bach,



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Patrick Kabanda is touring several Westman towns on his first visit to Canada, having learned about the Prairies in his native Uganda.

Mendelsohn, and one of his own compositions.

Kabanda's Canadian premiere will take place in Brandon tomorrow at 8 p.m., at St. Matthew's Anglican Cathedral. He will perform at St. Paul's United Church in Souris on Saturday, followed by the

Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Killarney on June 19, St. Antoninus Catholic Church in Deloraine on June 21, and at St. Paul's United Church, in Boissevain on June 23.

Tickets will be available at the door at all venues.

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