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SHORT BIO (196 words)

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Graeme Shields is a Canadian-born composer and organist whose influences range from the Lutheran music tradition to the experimental confidence of the avant-garde. His compositions, often exercises in dry humour and eccentricity, aim to articulate the mysteries of the past, the spirit, and the unknown. His music features repetition, audible process, stark juxtaposition, theatrical elements, and a bricolage approach to harmonic language. Through these features and influences, he has generated a body of work that breathes new life into ancient elements like old-world folk tunes and extinct pagan rituals, garnering performances across the US, Canada, and Russia.

Graeme is a founding member of Vital Organ Project: a non-profit that facilitates the creation, education, and performance of new organ music. Since 2017, VOP has been the catalyst for over 25 world premieres across the US and Canada showcasing the instrument's versatility and relevance in the 21st century. Shields has also held numerous organist and accompanist positions, including the Turkish American Musical Theatre Alliance for which he traveled to Istanbul in 2013. He is currently the Director of Music at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, IL. Graeme holds degrees from Western Michigan University and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. || www.GraemeShields.com