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For Immediate Release

Dr. Robert M. Randolph, chaplain to the Institute at MIT, has commissioned Leonardo Ciampa (Artistic Director of MIT's organ concerts) to compose two significant organ works. The *MIT Organ Book* will contain 25 short works, based on recognizable tunes from a myriad of religious traditions, as well as some secular works of an inspirational nature. According to Chaplain Randolph, "The book will be of great use, not only at the services in our Chapel, but also at functions in churches, chapels, and schools throughout the country. We wish to show that the pipe organ is as relevant and necessary to our spiritual lives as ever before, and we believe that this volume will take us one step forward in the realization of that wish." The second commission, the *Kresge Organ Symphony*, was also the brainchild of Chaplain Randolph. "The large, 1955 Holtkamp organ in Kresge Auditorium is an instrument that certainly has a voice. I wondered: what is its voice? What would that voice sound like, and if it were to speak, what would it say? I commissioned Mr. Ciampa to answer those questions in the form of a grand organ symphony. This majestic work will comprise four movements and, I do not doubt, will be a significant addition to the culture here at MIT and to the culture of the organ world as a whole." In the fall of 2012, Ciampa will premier the *Kresge Organ Symphony* in a public concert in Kresge.

MIT has two 1955 Holtkamps, the aforementioned instrument in Kresge and a smaller instrument in the Chapel. Until recently, both instruments were rarely heard. Seeking to change that, in 2009 Chaplain Randolph hired Leonardo Ciampa to organize concerts on both instruments, as well as to play for the newly instituted Tuesday morning gatherings. According to Randolph, "The organs have been heard more in these three years than they were heard in the thirty years previous."

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