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## **KATELYN EMERSON**

### **Biography**

Organist Katelyn Emerson performs throughout the United States and Europe, showcasing repertoire from the 14<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and giving “superlative performance with musical precision” (Worcester Chapter, American Guild of Organists). She has performed in numerous venues, notably including the Cathédrale Poitiers (France), Krasnoyarsk Philharmonic Hall (Russia), Cathédrale St-Quentin (Hasselt, Belgium), Hauptkirche St. Petri (Hamburg, Germany), Severance Hall (Cleveland, OH), and Reith Recital Hall at Goshen College, IN.

Katelyn received the First Prize of the AGO’s 2016 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, the premiere performance competition of the Guild, the Second Jean Boyer Award in the Fifth International Organ Competition Pierre de Manchicourt (Béthune and Saint-Omer, France), and the second prize of the 2015 Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition (Syracuse, NY). As the youngest of seven finalists, she was awarded the title of “Laureate” and Third Place among other prizes in the VIII Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition (Kaliningrad, Russia). Katelyn was also chosen as one of *The Diapason’s* “20 under 30 – Class of 2015,” a group of young organists, organ builders, harpsichordists, and choral directors showing “superior accomplishments, leadership, creativity, and innovative thinking,” and was featured in *The Diapason’s* May 2015 issue. Winner of the 2011 Region V AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists (Lexington, KY), Katelyn performed as a “Rising Star” at the AGO National Convention (Nashville, TN) during the summer of 2012. She also won first place in the L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Competition

for High School Organists in 2010, received the 2013 M. Louise Miller Scholarship, and was a 2014 Fellow at the AGO National Convention (Boston, MA). Following Katelyn's 2015 concert at the Church on the Cape (Cape Porpoise, ME), the board of the McClelland Community Music Foundation was moved to create and award her a scholarship to accompany Katelyn in her future studies.

As a recipient of the prestigious J. William Fulbright Study/Research Grant, Katelyn studied at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional in Toulouse, France for the 2015-2016 academic year with Michel Bouvard, Jan Willem Jansen, and Yasuko Uyama-Bouvard. In May 2015, Katelyn graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory (Oberlin, OH) with double bachelor's degrees in organ performance and French as well as with minors in music history and historical performance (fortepiano). During her time at Oberlin, she taught music theory at the Oberlin Community Music School, received the Selby Harlan Houston prize for distinguished work in organ and music theory, and was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, the national music honors society. Katelyn began her organ studies in 2005 through a scholarship of the Young Organist Collaborative (Portsmouth, NH). She has studied with James David Christie, Olivier Latry, Marie-Louise Langlais, Ray Cornils, and Dr. Abbey Hallberg-Siegfried. She has also studied organ improvisation with Jeffrey Brillhart, Marie-Louise Langlais, and Bálint Karosi, piano with Arlene Kies, fortepiano with David Breitman, both harpsichord and continuo with Webb Wiggins, and voice with Ellen Hargis. Katelyn frequently presents masterclasses on organ interpretation and church music for AGO-sponsored events. She has been on the faculty of several AGO Pipe Organ Encounters and at the Oberlin Summer Organ Academy (OH).

In September 2016, Ms. Emerson joined the staff of the Church of the Advent (Boston, MA) as Associate Organist and Choirmaster, where she plays the historic Aeolian-Skinner organ

and works with the professional Choir and the volunteer Parish Choir. From 2010-2015, Ms. Emerson was music director of St. Paul Lutheran Church (Amherst, OH). In January 2012, Katelyn served as the Oberlin Sacred Music Intern under music director Keith Tóth at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York, NY, where she also replaced music director Keith Tóth in the month of July for three consecutive years (2012-2015). Katelyn has been invited to present workshops on recently published organ music for church services in the 2013 Regional Convention of the AGO (Hartford, CT) Regions I & II, and the 2015 Northeastern Regional Convention of the AGO (New Haven, CT).

*Current as of December 2016*