

MONICA CZAUSZ **Biography**

A true rising star among young classical musicians, Monica Czausz has quickly made a name for herself as one of the finest young American organists on the scene today. Known for her creative programming, innovative use of the organ, and charming demeanor, she was recognized as one of the top 20 organists under 30 in the May 2016 issue of *The Diapason*. She has received first prize in numerous competitions, including the 2015 American Guild of Organists Regional Competition for Young Organists (Region VII: Southwest), 2015 Schweitzer Competition in the Young Professionals' Division, the 2013 William C. Hall Competition, the 2012 L. Cameron Johnson Competition, and the 2011 Oklahoma City University Competition.

Monica has performed widely at conventions including the 2017 Southwest Regional Convention of the AGO in Dallas and the 2017 Northeast Regional AGO/National RCCO Convention in Montréal. Also during the summer of 2017, she was featured in her third consecutive OHS convention, headlining in a full-length evening performance. In 2016 she performed at the AGO National Convention in Houston Texas, both for Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, and as a "Rising Star," where she gave "a fabulous performance that displayed artistic mastery far beyond her years" according to *The American Organist*. In her performance at the 2016 Organ Historical Society National Convention in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, she was said to have "played with great flair" (*The American Organist*). In 2015, she was featured at the OHS National Convention in Western Massachusetts, the AGO Regional Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, and the East Texas Organ Festival in Kilgore, where *The Tracker* reported, "this young lady just blew us all away." During the summer of 2016, she accompanied the Christ Church Cathedral (Houston, Texas) Choir on their tour of England

where they fulfilled residencies at the Cathedrals of St. Paul's (London), Durham, and Bristol. She has recently performed at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Merrill Auditorium in Portland Maine, the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Broadway Baptist Church of Forth Worth, St. Paul's Chapel at Trinity Wall Street, and the Eccles Festival at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City. Upcoming programs for the 2018-19 season include performances for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention of the AGO, Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, Spivey Hall in Morrow, Georgia, and Fresno State University for the International Philip Lorenz Keyboard Festival. Monica's performances have been broadcast on Pipedreams, WRTI Philadelphia, 91.7 Houston, and KTRU Rice Radio.

Monica graduated from The Curtis Institute of Music in May of 2019 with an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance and a Performer's Certificate in Harpsichord Performance, where she studied with Alan Morrison and Leon Schelhase, respectively. In May of 2017, she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas, where she completed a five-year combined Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree program in Organ Performance. At Rice she studied with renowned professor Ken Cowan and, upon graduation, was awarded the Undergraduate Distinction in Research and Creative Work. From September 2015 through July 2017, she served as full-time Cathedral Organist at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Houston, Texas, under the leadership of acclaimed director Robert Simpson. Splitting her time in Philadelphia and New York City during the past year, she worked with director James Wetzel at The Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena (Upper East Side) and, upon graduation from Curtis, has since moved to Dallas, Texas.

Further information can be found at: monicaczausz.com.

Monica Czausz is under the exclusive management of Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.

Updated June 2019