

JONATHAN RYAN

Biography

Acclaimed by audiences and critics alike for his strong communicative skills in numerous styles, depth of musicianship, and passion, Jonathan Ryan is hailed as one of the premiere young concert organists. His command of an exceptionally large breadth of repertoire, spanning from the Renaissance to numerous solo and collaborative premieres, coupled with striking virtuosity enables the bold, imaginative programming and exceptional use of each organ's unique capability for which he is noted.

Mr. Ryan has the rare distinction of holding six First Prize awards from major international and national organ competitions. He most notably entered the international spotlight when awarded both First Prize and the only auxiliary prize, the Létourneau Concerto Prize, in the 2009 Jordan II International Organ Competition.

Jonathan Ryan's recording entitled *Influences*, recorded on the Stahlhuth-Jann organ at St. Martin's Church, Dudelange Luxembourg, appeared in winter 2015 on the independent boutique label, Acis. The recording features major works by Dupré and Willan, a premiere recording of Ad Wammes, and a commissioned piece by renowned English composer Philip Moore. His début solo organ recording, *A Cathedral's Voice* (Raven 941), was released in 2012 to immediate critical acclaim, including a five-star review in the London-based *Choir & Organ*. Mr. Ryan's performances have also been featured on the nationally syndicated radio programs *Pipedreams* and *With Heart and Voice*.

Solo performance engagements have taken Mr. Ryan to numerous prominent venues, festivals, and conventions throughout the United States and Europe, including St. Paul's Cathedral in London (UK), the Nicolaikirche in Leipzig (Germany), the Cathédrale St-André in Bordeaux (France), international organ festivals in Zürich (Switzerland), Hamburg (Germany), Lübeck (Germany), the Piccolo Spoleto Festival's prestigious Spotlight Series (Charleston SC), the inaugural organ concert series at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland CA, the 2014 Boston National Convention of the

American Guild of Organists, and three National Conventions of the Organ Historical Society. One of Mr. Ryan's current recital projects includes performances of J.S. Bach's monumental *Clavier-Übung III* on some of the most important historically-informed organs in the United States.

Born into a musical family in Charlotte, NC, Ryan first started playing the organ at age eight. He holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Eastman School of Music, as well as the revered Fellow (FAGO) and Choirmaster (ChM) certifications from the American Guild of Organists.

Ryan enjoys combining his passions for conducting, performing, and teaching in many contexts, including in the interdisciplinary nature of liturgy. In the 2023-2024 season, he serves as Acting Director of Music at Christ Church Cranbrook (Episcopal) in Bloomfield Hills, MI. There, he leads the music program consisting of the semi-professional adult choir, chorister program based on the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), works with 5 other music staff, and enjoys the church's numerous instruments including the E.M. Skinner/Mander IV/84 organ in the church. From 2017-2023, he was Director of Music at one of the largest Episcopal churches in the United States, St. Michael and All Angels in Dallas, TX. At St. Michael, he led exceptional growth and success in the music program, including establishing a multi-choir RSCM-based chorister program for ages 4 to 18, founding the professional Compline Choir and a weekly Compline service, directing the adult choir in several orchestral Masses each year, and leading choirs in their first concert performances and tours in the 21st-century. Earlier in his career, he served as Associate Director of Music within one of the largest Episcopal church music programs in the country at Christ Church in Greenwich CT. Among Christ Church's nine choirs, he directed the adult choir in choral Masses and concerts, and assisted with the Choir of Men & Boys and the Girls Choir. He has previously held director, conducting and organist positions at St. John Cantius Church in Chicago IL, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, IL, and St. Anne Church in Rochester NY where he was additionally Artistic Director of the *Music at St. Anne* concert series, and University Organist at the University of Rochester. During his two seasons as Visiting Artist at St. James Cathedral in Chicago IL, his solo organ accompaniment transcription of the Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Op. 45, performed live in concert with the St.

James Cathedral Choir (Bruce Barber, conductor), was showcased on the Friday night “Music in Chicago” program of Chicago’s Classical Music Station, WFMT. Equally at home on the conducting podium, he has conducted the premiere of numerous works for choir and instrumental ensembles, and directed and founded choirs of all ages and abilities. Recent conducting engagements include Guest Director of the Dallas Symphony Chorus and the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, New York City.

For additional information, including upcoming performances and purchasing recordings,
please visit:

www.jonathan-ryan.com

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