

AARON TAN

Biography

Concert organist Aaron Tan is a leading young artist in North America. In October 2021 he was awarded First Prize at the 2021 Canadian International Organ Competition as well as several additional awards for performances of specific works at the competition (The Sir Ernest MacMillan Award for Canadian competitors, the award for best performance of a work by Marcel Dupré, and best performance of a work by a Canadian composer). Originally from the Philippines and Canada, he is an organist and pianist who enjoys multi-faceted careers as a musician and a materials scientist.

Aaron's primary musical tutelage has been with John Tuttle, David Palmer, Joel Hastings, Martin Jean, and David Higgs. His musical upbringing began on the piano and later diversified to include organ and violin. He received his Associate (ARCT) diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada at the age of twelve and went on to earn his Licentiate (LTCL) and Fellowship (FTCL) diplomas in Piano Performance from Trinity College of Music, London, England, at 13 and 15 years of age, respectively. When he was 18, he also completed his ARCT diploma in violin performance.

In 2004, under the auspices of the Barwell Scholarship (awarded to pianists interested in learning the organ), he began organ studies with John Tuttle while concurrently entering as a freshman in Engineering Science at the University of Toronto. He went on to complete both Associate (ARCCO) and Fellowship (FRCCO) diplomas in organ from the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO). In addition, he has also won numerous noteworthy competitions and scholarships including First Prize at the American Guild of Organists 2018 National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance, the Toronto RCCO Young Organists Competition, the Osborne Organ Competition of the Summer Institute of Church Music (Ontario), the RCCO's National Organ Playing Competition, the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians, the

Lilian Forsyth Scholarship, the 2012 Poland International Piano Festival Competition, the West Chester University Organ Competition, the Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition, and the Sursa American Organ Competition.

In 2025 Aaron completed his doctoral degree (DMA) in organ performance at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. He received his MM and MMA from Yale University. Aaron also holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan and a B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science from the University of Toronto.

In August 2025, he began as Director of Music at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, Alabama. Aaron has served as Organ Scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit, Michigan, Artist in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit, Assistant Organist at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Organ Scholar at the Church of the Resurrection, New York City, Director of Music at St. Alban's Catholic Church, Rochester New York, and Director of Music at The Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester, NY.

Aaron's first commercial recording, "Impressions," was released in 2019. His second album, "Aux étoiles," was released in 2023, and features rarely heard post-Romantic works by Karg-Elert, Whitlock, Laurin and Duparc, among others. In January 2026 he released on the Raven label a collection of ten pieces from *L'Orgue Moderne*, a periodical publication curated by Widor and Guilmant featuring works by students of the Paris Conservatoire at the turn of the twentieth century.

More information about Aaron's musical interests and activities can be found at [**www.AaronTan.org**](http://www.AaronTan.org).

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