

MUSICIAN BIOS

ROB LANDES

Rob Landes began studying the piano at the age of three and made his “debut” on the Art Linkletter *House Party* program at the age of four. A native Houstonian, his playing has taken him from the United States and Canada, to Norway, France, Germany, the UK and Norway. Landes is widely known as a pianist, organist, arranger, conductor and published composer. He is associated with six national publishers.

The Rob Landes Trio is well known for performances in concert at Jones Hall, The Wortham Theatre, The Tower Theatre, The Houston Jazz Festival and the Galveston Opera House. They appeared weekly for three years on Channel 13’s *Good Morning Houston*. Rob has been the Organist and Artist-in-Residence at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church since 1996. He has 18 CDs.

JIM ROMAN

A native of Moorestown, NJ, James Roman received early organ training as a student of Joel Krott before attending Westminster Choir College of Rider University where he earned a dual undergraduate degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music. He continued his education at Westminster and subsequently earned a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance. James studied organ with Ken Cowan and Alan Morrison at Westminster, and has had additional studies with Grethe Krogh in Copenhagen, Denmark.

James has given numerous recitals in the Northeast and was a student performer in the 2013 AGO Region III Convention in Winchester, VA. Additionally, he was the winner of the 2013 Joan Lippincott Organ Competition for Excellence in Organ Performance.

An avid lover of choral music, James participated in three choir tours of Denmark and Sweden both as a choral singer and accompanist with the music program at the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. As a member of the Westminster Symphonic Choir, he performed under the baton of many world-renowned conductors such as Alan Gilbert, Daniel Barenboim, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Recent performances, with orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra at Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center and New York’s Carnegie Hall, included Verdi’s Requiem, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, Rachmaninoff’s The Bells, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Mahler’s Symphonies Nos. 2. & 8, Brahms’ Ein deutsches Requiem, Bernstein’s MASS, and the NYC premiere of Christopher Rouses’ Requiem. He was also a member of the Grammy-nominated Westminster Williamson Voices under the direction of Dr. James Jordan and released two

recordings with the ensemble under the GIA and Naxos labels: *A Hole in the Sky* and *Carolae: Music for Christmas*. James currently sings with the Houston Symphony Chorus under the direction of Dr. Betsy Cook Weber.

James currently resides with his wife Grace (a wonderful soprano!) in Houston, TX and is Associate Organist/Pianist at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. He also serves on the faculty of the Bridges Academy of Fine Arts, teaching organ and piano.

DAVID CHERWIEN

David serves as Artistic Director for the National Lutheran Choir and also Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for traditional liturgy and creative, high-quality music. He also serves as editor of the National Lutheran Choir Series of choral music published by Morningstar Music Publishers. David is a founding member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and has served in its leadership in a variety of capacities, including as National President. He is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, American Guild of Organists, and Chorus America.

David holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance and the Master of Arts degree in Theory and Composition from the University of Minnesota. In the Fall of 2000, he was honored as a "Distinguished Alumnus" by Augsburg College (Minneapolis, MN), where he studied choral music education and organ performance as an undergraduate. David also spent two years at the Berlin Church Music School studying conducting, composition and organ, and is a Fellow with Melodious Accord, having studied with Alice Parker.

David Cherwien is a prolific composer with over 150 publications with several publishers and is the 2007 winner of the Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition for his piece, "The Souls of the Righteous." For the National Lutheran Choir alone, Cherwien has composed at least 24 new works during his tenure with the Choir and has produced numerous recordings of hymns and choral music.

SETH BOTT

Seth is a native of Castle Dale, Utah. In May of 2020, he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance at the University of Kansas, where he studied under

James Higdon and Michael Bauer. He was appointed to a graduate teaching assistantship, where he taught private lessons and worked closely with the organ faculty to organize and execute organ department business. Before attending the University of Kansas, he received his Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in organ performance and pedagogy from Brigham Young University, where he studied with Don Cook and Douglas Bush.

Seth is an active recitalist and performs many recitals around the United States every year. He served for many years as a Guest Tabernacle Organist on Temple Square and participated in the daily recital series performed on the famous Mormon Tabernacle Organ. Seth has had an abundance of church music roles in many denominations and is currently serving as Director of Music and Organist at St. James Episcopal Church in Midvale, Utah. His church playing experiences in the LDS Church have afforded him to play for many large and small meetings, with several of them being televised. In 2009, he took first place in region IX of the RCYO AGO organ competition for young organists, allowing him to perform at the National AGO convention in Washington, D.C. in 2010. As a natural teacher with much background, Seth loves to share his passion for music and the organ with others.

CAROLINE ROBINSON

Originally from Greenville, SC, Caroline Robinson is an active performing organist and church musician. In July 2020, she assumed the post of Associate Organist-Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. There, under the direction of Canon Dale Adelman, she shares organ playing and accompanying responsibilities with Artist-in-Residence Jack Mitchener and she leads the RSCM-based Chorister program.

Caroline has been featured as a solo recitalist in many venues across the United States, including New York City churches St. Thomas Fifth Avenue, St. John the Divine, Trinity Church Wall Street, and St. Patrick's Cathedral; Church of the Advent in Boston, MA and Harvard Memorial Church, Cambridge; and Kansas City's the Kauffman Center. Her playing has been broadcast on American Public Media's "Pipedreams", "Pipedreams LIVE!", and Philadelphia-based public radio station 90.1 WRTI's Wanamaker Organ Hour. She has been a featured performer at OHS conventions (2015, 2016, and 2018) and AGO Regional Conventions (2015, Pittsburgh; 2019, Myrtle Beach).

Caroline is the Second Prize Winner of the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP), held as part of the 2018 AGO Convention in Kansas City. Caroline holds First Prize from the 11th annual Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival (2008) and from the 10th annual West Chester University Organ Competition (2010). She was a semifinalist in the 2014 Dublin International Organ Competition.

Caroline completed her undergraduate work at the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Alan Morrison. Aided by a grant from the J. William Fulbright fellowship fund, Caroline studied at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Toulouse with Michel Bouvard and Jan Willem Jansen (organ) and Yasuko Bouvard (harpsichord). Caroline holds a Master of Music in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with David Higgs, and she is currently in the final stages of her doctoral studies at the same institution. Upon finishing doctoral coursework at Eastman, Caroline received the Performer's Certificate for demonstration of high performing ability. She also earned the Advanced Teaching Certificate in Theory Pedagogy following four semesters of theory instruction to undergraduates.

JONATHAN GREGOIRE

Praised for his "top-notch technique and musicianship" by the Dallas Morning News, Jonathan M. Gregoire is an imaginative keyboardist and advocate for the power music has to transform lives. Gregoire brings his passion for music, intuitive gifts for the healing powers of the arts, and warm charisma to his creative output. As a soloist, his engaging performances are praised for their "unfailing drive, energy, and expression," with equal parts style and flair. As a collaborative artist, his elegance and facility at both the piano and the organ are further augmented by his sensitivity and innate ability to support and lead from the keyboard. He supports congregational and choral singing as the organist at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. As an educator, Gregoire is driven by the belief that through education we promote understanding, and with understanding we can foster appreciation. With this belief, he founded and serves as the Executive Director of the Arts Foundation of St. Andrew, which is dedicated to "enriching spirituality through the power of the arts." For additional information, including recordings, please visit: jonathangregoire.com