

# John-Eric Gundersen

Sam Houston State University  
College of Fine Arts and  
Mass Communication  
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## EDUCATION

### **Rice University, Houston TX    Doctor of Musical Arts, 2012**

- Studies in organ performance and improvisation with the late Dr. Gerre Hancock, organist emeritus, St. Thomas Church, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NYC.
- Choral conducting, and choral methods studies with Dr. Gerre Hancock with emphasis on historical practices and vocal styles of the Anglican traditions.
- DMA Dissertation: *Tuning Your Choral Pipes: An Organist's Manual for Choral Sound.*

### **Yale University, New Haven CT**

#### **Master of Music & Certificate in Sacred Music and Liturgy, 2006**

- Studies in organ performance and improvisation with Prof. Tom Murray, Dr. Martin Jean, Prof. Jeffrey Brillhart, Prof. Thomas Trotter, and Dame Gillian Weir.
- Studies in choral conducting & methods with Prof. Simon Carrington and Prof. Maggie Brooks, and collaboration with the Yale Schola Cantorum.
- Liturgy and Hymnody studies with Thomas Troeger, Jaime Lara, and Bryan Spinks.
- Teaching Assistant to Dr. Frank Tirro and TA and Research Assistant to Dr. Markus Rathey.
- Personal one-on-one coaching with artists-in-residence Sir. David Wilcocks, Dr. Krzysztof Penderecki, Mr. John Rutter.
- Recipient of the Charles Ives scholarship.
- Studies in Organ, Choral Conducting, Musicology, Religion and Liturgy.

### **Utah State University, Logan, UT    Bachelor of Music, 2004**

- Studies in organ performance, and choral conducting.

- Masterclasses with Ullrich Böhme, Thomas Trotter, Gillian Weir, James Higdon, John Weaver, Thomas Murray.
- Certification in Alexander Technique.
- Finalist and recitalist in the 2004 London Organ Festival. Recital performed at Westminster Catholic Cathedral.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Director of Music & Organist, St James Episcopal Church; Conroe, TX    2010-Present**

Responsibilities include planning and implementing liturgy and music for weekly worship services. Weekly preparation of instrumental and choral offerings rooted in the Anglican tradition. Recent performances for choir and full orchestra of Masses, Cantatas, Requiems, Oratorios (etc.,) by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Bach, Durufle, Britten, Faure, Dobrogosz, Rutter. Prepared and led parish choir for 2013 choir trip to England (residency at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and Gloucester Cathedral). 2015 Choir Tour of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Prague with performances at St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna, Bern Cathedral, Salzburg Cathedral, and St. Vitus in Prague. 2017 Choir Tour of England where choir sang Evensong services at St. Paul's Cathedral and Lincoln Cathedral, with personal written invitation to return in future for choir residency from the Succentor of St. Paul's cathedral. Coordinate a fine-arts program with recent concerts by Norway's Nidaros Cathedral Choir, ChoRuss Vocal Ensemble of St. Petersburg, Russia, Apollo Chamber Players. Weekly training of Church musicians, choristers and youth choristers in the stylistic traits of the Anglo-Catholic School of Music.

### **Clinical Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre, SHSU; Huntsville, TX    2008-Present**

Teaching the Platform Performances class, which is an intensive in musical ensemble. Teaching music theory and piano to musical theatre students. Music direct students for their annual NYC showcase performance. Music director and assistant music director, and rehearsal pianist for two major musicals per academic year. Recent shows include but not limited to: *Songs for a New World*, *42nd Street*, *Full Monty*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Chicago*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Fantasticks*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Rent*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Cabaret*, *Damn Yankees*, *Hairspray*, *Jerome Kern Revue*

**Choirmaster & Organist, St. Thomas Episcopal Church;  
New Haven, CT 2004-2006**

While pursuing studies at Yale School of Music I served as Choirmaster and Organist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, the church where Charles Ives served while a student at Yale. St. Thomas is a gothic church with beautiful acoustics, and it houses a four-manual Aeolian-Skinner pipe-organ. As choirmaster I rehearsed the parish choir and children's choir for weekly musical offerings rooted in the Anglican tradition. Evensong was performed once a month on Sunday evening. Part of the job responsibilities was to manage the church's Fine Arts series, which events featured (but not limited to) the Boy's Choir of America, Yale Glee Club, New Haven Men's Chorus, Aldo Parisot, cello, youth and children's musicals. The parish choir of St. Thomas Episcopal included twelve part-time professional staff singers who were all students at the Yale School of Music.

**Research Assistant and Lecturer in Music, Yale University;  
New Haven, CT 2004-2006**

Assisting Professor Markus Rathey in extensive research of madrigalisms in the cantatas of Bach. Further research in the free-mason connection to Psalm 130 and *die Zauberflöte* specifically in the works of Liszt and Mozart. Assistant lecturer of '*Psalm 130: de profundis clamavi*' a graduate course in sacred music offered through the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

**Guest Organist, Mormon Tabernacle Choir;  
Salt Lake City, UT 2001-2004**

Preparing weekly 40-minute organ recitals. Organ recitals are offered twice a day and played on the famed Aeolian-Skinner tabernacle organ. Occasional organ accompaniment and collaboration with visiting choirs and seasonal concerts.

## **COMPOSITIONS**

Gloria (Choral), Shout and Give Him Glory (SATB Choral), Peace Like A River (SATB Choral), Death Shall Not Destroy My Comfort (SATB Choral), Now Thank We All our God (Organ), Adeste Fidelis (Organ), Lasst Uns Erfreuen (Organ), Ressurexit (Organ), All is Well (Organ), Simple Gifts (Organ),

## **COMPETITIONS, AWARDS & RECENT RECITALS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Carlene Neihart Organ Competition

Kansas City, MO

2nd Place in the Poister Organ Competition

Syracuse, New York

2nd Place in the Denver Organ Competition

Honorable Mention at the Fort Bend, IN National Organ Competition

Yale University Charles Ives Award in Organ Performance

Yale University Harry Jepson Award in Organ Performance

St. Paul's Cathedral - Organ Recital

London, UK

St. Stephens Cathedral - Organ Recital

Vienna, Austria

Westminster Abbey - Organ Recital

London, UK

St. Thomas Church 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue - Organ Recital

NYC, NY

Yale University, Woolsey Hall - Organ Recital

New Haven, CT

St. Jakob Kyrka - Organ Recital

Stockholm, Sweden

Bath Abbey, Hereford Cathedral, Lincoln Cathedral - Organ Recitals

England

Frauenkirche - Organ Recital

Dresden, GER

Upcoming recitals in 2017-18 at St. Sulpice in Paris, France    Nidaros Dom in  
Trondheim, Norway    St. Maria Kyrkan, Göteborg, Sweden.

## **REFERENCES**

Names and contact information provided on request.