

Adam J. Brakel

Concert Organist

The spell-binding performances of concert organist Adam J. Brakel have led to his being compared to Liszt, Gould, Bernstein, and Paganini and proving that true musical prodigies continue to exist in the 21st century. National Public Radio in Florida hailed him as “An absolute organ prodigy, with the technique and virtuosity that most concert pianists could only dream of, and having the potential to be the leading organist of his generation...the Franz Liszt of the organ.” The Chicago Tribune recognized Brakel as “One of the most talented organists in the world.” A recent graduate of the Peabody Conservatory, Adam J. Brakel has already embarked on a highly successful concert career, playing from coast to coast in the United States, and concert tours having taken him to England, Germany, and Hong Kong. Dame Gillian Weir, one of the foremost organists in the world, said of Brakel, “He is to be commended for his devotion to the art of performance, and to music itself.” Brakel’s repertoire of organ literature is extensive, and includes the entire spectrum of styles including the complete organ works of Bach, Bruhns, Buxtehude, Couperin, Liszt, de Grigny, Mozart, Mendelssohn and others – laudable for a performer only in his twenties. Recent performance highlights include the performances of the complete works of César Franck and, more notably, the fiendishly difficult *Six Etudes* of Jeanne Demessieux, one of very few performers in the world to perform and record the entire set. Mr. Brakel has also made an intentional study of jazz music for the pipe organ and has worked with leading jazz composers in the development of new works in this genre.

After beginning his musical studies at the age of four, Adam was awarded an American Guild of Organists scholarship as a high school junior. He then enrolled at Duquesne University where he studied organ with John Walker and David Craighead and harpsichord with Rebecca Rollett. While at Duquesne he was appointed Associate Organist at St. Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral in Pittsburgh where he was featured weekly on television broadcasts throughout western Pennsylvania. He graduated from Duquesne University *magna cum laude* in 2006 and was awarded the Andre Marchal Award for Excellence in Performance. He then enrolled at The Juilliard School in New York City, receiving the John Dexter Bush Scholarship, and the Alice Tully Award. In addition to his studies, Mr. Brakel was appointed Assistant Organist at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola on Park Avenue and he was featured in solo recitals at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Central Synagogue among other notable Manhattan venues. In autumn 2007, Adam enrolled at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore where he completed his master’s degree and then awarded the Graduate Performance Diploma in 2011. At Peabody, he studied with Donald Sutherland as well as visiting guest professor, Dame Gillian Weir. During this time he also served as guest assisting organist at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Further studies in Toulouse, France resulted in his being given the prestigious “Oundle Award” in 2008.

As a fierce and exacting competitor in numerous competitions, Adam Brakel has distinguished himself by winning top prizes in the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition, the Reuter/Augustana Arts Undergraduate Organ Competition, the Gruenstein Memorial Organ Competition, the John Rodland Memorial Scholarship Competition, the French Organ Music Seminar Competition, and the Carlene Neihart International Organ Competition

In addition to his concert career, Adam Brakel currently serves as Director of Music at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. This appointment follows two years as Director of Music and Organist at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Cathedral in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, a position to which he was appointed at age 25, making him at the time one of the youngest directors appointed to a cathedral in the United States.

For further information please visit: www.adambrakel.com