

Bach Birthday Bash

Rice University Organ Studio
Sunday, March 21, 2021
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Houston, Texas

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 543

Hannah Cen
DMA 2023

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr, BWV 662

Hank Carrillo
MM 2022

Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532

Jared Cook
MM 2023

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618

Benjamin Henderson
MM 2022

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein, BWV 641

Bruce Xu
BMus 2024

Trio Sonata in D Minor, BWV 527

Andante
Adagio e dolce
Vivace

Martin Jones
BMus, 2021

Tocatta in F Major, BWV 540

Ben Kerswell
DMA 2023

About the Artists

Hank Carrillo was born in Corpus Christi, Texas. His study of music began at the age of six first when he started taking piano lessons. He was first introduced to the wonders of the pipe organ in the summer of 2011, when he attended a summer camp at Baylor University. Following several of these camps, he began to take organ lessons with the late Les Peart, at the time organist at First Christian Church of Corpus Christi. During this time period, he served as Organ Scholar at Corpus Christi Cathedral and Organist at the Pax Christi Institute in Calallen, Texas.

Hank attended Baylor University for his undergraduate degree, where he studied with Isabelle Demers. While at Baylor, he served as Organist and Music Director at First United Methodist church of McGregor, Texas. Currently, he is pursuing a Master of Music in Organ Performance at Rice University, where he studies with Ken Cowan.

Organist and pianist **Hannah Lingen Cen** has delighted audiences in solo appearances at NYC's St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Steinway Hall, New Paltz in upstate New York and Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston. She won the third prize of 2019 AGO Brooklyn chapter scholarship organ competition and has been a scholarship recipient of the E. Power Biggs Fellowship and Oregon Bach Festival Organ Institute where she studied with Paul Jacobs. Ms. Cen served as organ scholar and pianist at Grace Episcopal Church, NYC, where she assisted Organist-Master of Choristers Patrick Allen in all aspects of the music program. She previously served as pianist at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NYC.

Ms. Cen attended the Piano Summer Festival at SUNY New Paltz for four consecutive summers. She has played in piano masterclasses for world-renowned pianists Vladimir Ovchinnikov, Jereme Rose and Hui-Ying Liu.

Ms. Cen's piano collaborative performances include chamber music recitals at the National Opera Center, NYC and Manhattan School of Music (MSM), where she served as an accompanist in the collegiate and precollege divisions. Ms. Cen currently serves as piano and organ accompanist at Episcopal High School in Houston. As an enthusiastic educator, Ms. Cen is on the piano faculty of NYC's Geneva Conservatory of Music.

Ms. Cen holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in piano performance with Phillip Kawin from Manhattan School of Music, where she also received a Master of Music degree in organ performance with Andrew Henderson. She is currently pursuing the Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in organ performance, studying with Ken Cowan at Rice University.

Jared D. Cook, organist, is a native of Houston, Texas. He began his formal organ study at age seventeen with Stephen Morris and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Organ Performance at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music studying with Ken Cowan, after completing a Bachelor's degree in Organ Performance and French from Baylor University, studying with Dr. Isabelle Demers. No stranger to the competition circuit, the 2018 William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition awarded Jared first place in the undergraduate division, as well as the prize for outstanding hymn playing. He was also selected as the organ division winner in the 2018 Baylor University School of Music Semper Pro Musica Competition. A rising recitalist, Jared has performed at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City, Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, and the Cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation et Saint-Sigisbert in Nancy, France, among others. Jared's accomplishments were recently recognized as he was selected to the Diapason's Class of 2019 "20 under 30."

In addition to his studies, Jared has served as the organ scholar at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas, the Principal Organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Waco, Texas and the Organ Scholar at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas where his responsibilities included accompanying the Chancel Choir and service playing. Currently, he is serving as the organ scholar at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston, Texas.

In addition to organ, Jared is enthusiastic about meeting new people, learning languages, commercial aviation and traveling.

Benjamin Henderson is from Middletown, CT and is in pursuit of his Masters (MM) in Organ Performance at Rice University in the studio of Ken Cowan. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ from The Eastman School of Music in 2020 and was awarded the Performer's Certificate while in the studio of Nathan Laube. He is the Associate Organist at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston and has been the Organ Scholar at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, NY for three years, Assistant Youth Organist (Organ Scholar) at First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, CT for three years, having studied organ with David Spicer for four years.

He has been an accompanist for Middletown Public School's Choirs and many other organizations, including the Wethersfield Teen Theater, the GMChorale

(Greater Middletown Chorale), and the Greater Meriden Chorale. In 2015, Ben soloed with the New Haven Symphony at the Bushnell in Hartford, performing the Final from Alexandre Guilmant's First Symphony. For two summers he was a recipient of the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ Scholarship, which allowed him to study with Alan Morrison, Peter Conte and Matthew Glandorf at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. During his time in Philadelphia, Ben had the opportunity to play the largest fully functioning pipe organ in the world – the Wanamaker Organ in the Grand Court of Macy's Department Store.

Ben has also had the opportunity to work with Isabelle Demers, Simon Johnson, Michel Bouvard, Olivier Latry, and Stephen Tharp in masterclasses. In 2016, he was the recipient of the Roberta Bitgood scholarship for young organists. He has played concerts in Cheshire, Hartford, Madison, New London, Wethersfield, Connecticut; Sarasota, Florida; Canandaigua, New York, Rochester, New York; Kitchener, Ontario; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Martin Jones is in his fourth year studying with Professor Ken Cowan for a bachelor's degree in organ performance at Rice University. He is also studying harpsichord with Mario Aschauer. Martin won the 2018 AGO Southwest Regional Competition for Young Organists in Denver, having won the Houston chapter competition that year. He won third prize, the hymn prize, and the audience prize in the High School Division of the 2016 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition.

Martin has also played in masterclasses with notable performers including Alan Morrison, Nathan Laube, Daniel Roth, Paul Jacobs, Peter Richard Conte, and David Higgs. A former American Boychoir chorister and Interlochen Arts Academy graduate, Martin is now organist at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston TX.

Ben Kerswell is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Organ Performance at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where he studies with and completed his Masters Degree under Ken Cowan. A graduate of St. Olaf College, he studied organ with Dr. Catherine Rodland and previously with Joanne Rodland.

An active recitalist, Ben performed as a Rising Star at the 2018 National AGO Convention in Kansas City, and he was a semi-finalist in the 2020 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. He previously was Organ Scholar at the Church of St. Louis, King of France in St. Paul, Minnesota, and he currently holds the position of Organ Scholar at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas.

Bruce Xu, from Sloatsburg, New York, studies organ performance with Ken Cowan at Rice University.

He was introduced to the grand pipe organ and the Protestant Church in his local Sloatsburg United Methodist Church. Within a month, he started organ lessons with Jimrae Lenser at age 9, and then went on to study with Craig Williams.

Bruce continued his studies at University of North Carolina School of the Arts' high school, where he studied organ performance with Timothy Olsen and sang with the Cantata Singers (of UNCOSA). Bruce was also Music Intern at Augsburg Lutheran Church.

At age 14 alone, Bruce won First Prize in six organ competitions: UNCOSA/Salem College High School Organ Festival & Competition (Winston-Salem, NC); Greater Columbia AGO Chapter Young Organist Competition (Columbia, SC); East Carolina University Young Artist Organ Competition (Greenville, NC); L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition (Storrs, CT); AGO Quimby/RCYO Chapter Competition (Atlanta, GA); and AGO Quimby/RCYO Regional Competition (Jacksonville, FL). As the medalist of the regional, Bruce appeared in a "Rising Star" performance in the 2018 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists (Kansas City, MO). Bruce won Second Prize in the 2018 Poister Competition as well as the 2018 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival. In 2020 he was the recipient of the Ridgewood Choral's Florence Reinauer Memorial Music Award, the Rockland County Music Educators Association Senior Scholarship, the Grover Foster Memorial Scholarship, the Morning Music Club Scholarship, the Ruth and Paul Manz Organ Scholarship, and the Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial Scholarship.

A few of the concert venues Bruce has played in include Basilica Santa Maria in Mataro, Spain; Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in FL; Balboa Park Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego, CA; Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, PA; Princeton University Chapel in NJ; West Point Cadet Chapel in NY; Community of Christ Auditorium in Kansas City, MO; Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, NYC; and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.

Bruce thoroughly enjoys playing classical piano in solo and chamber settings, as well as flute and classical ukulele. His four-octave vocal range is adaptable to many styles. He also enjoys playing soccer, tennis, and updating his YouTube channel.