

Opportunities for Student Organists

Student organists are able to draw on a myriad of performance, church music, and arts administration opportunities both on campus and in the wider community. While most of the teaching takes place in the Setnor School of Music, student organists regularly make use of additional opportunities supported by [Hendricks Chapel](#), [Syracuse Catholic Community](#), and the [Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists](#) in order to make the most of their experience in Syracuse. View our list of opportunities below to get a sense of what our student organists are up to. For more information, or to express an interest in applying or getting involved, email Dr. Anne Laver, assistant professor of organ and University organist, at alaver@syr.edu.

Solo performances: In addition to Setnor School convocation, the organ studio's Halloween concert in Hendricks Chapel and Bach Birthday Bash in Setnor Auditorium offer fantastic solo performance opportunities that draw large student crowds. Student organists also perform on members' recitals and outreach recitals of the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as a way to try new instruments and bring music to a wider audience.

Collaborative performances: Student organists are regularly asked to collaborate with Syracuse University ensembles for special performances. In recent years, student organists have performed with Syracuse University Orchestra, Syracuse University Wind Ensemble, Oratorio Society, Baroque Ensemble, and Hendricks Chapel Choir. Student organists are also eligible to compete in the annual Concerto and Aria Competition at the Setnor School of Music.

Organ demonstrations: Organ students are frequently asked to perform pieces and offer demonstrations of the historic Holtkamp organ in Setnor Auditorium for special events, such as admissions presentations for prospective students, reception days for new students, Orange Central tours, and Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza events with the Syracuse chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Students are also currently working on a series of video organ demonstrations in collaboration with the Organ Historical Society's Pipe Organ Database.

Masterclasses/guest artists: Student organists have the opportunity to perform for some of the world's leading concert organists and church musicians every year, thanks to the Malmgren Concert Series at Hendricks Chapel. In the past five years, Syracuse University has hosted masterclasses by Alan Morrison, Nathan Laube, Michel Bouvard, Edoardo Bellotti, and Andrew Henderson. Syracuse student organists also participate in improvisation masterclasses with professors and guests of the Eastman School of Music and Cornell University at frequent educational exchanges supported by the Mellon Corridor grants.

Sacred music: Student organists routinely provide preludes and postludes, accompany choral anthems, and lead hymns at the Sunday evening university worship service with the dean of Hendricks Chapel, Hendricks Chapel Choir, and University Organist. The Syracuse Catholic Community also employs a student organist as music director. Most student organists hold music director or organist positions at local churches or synagogues. For more information on available positions, visit the [Syracuse AGO website](#).

Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition in Organ Playing: Each Spring, Syracuse University and the Syracuse chapter of the American Guild of Organists puts on the Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition in Organ Playing and student organists are welcomed and encouraged to apply. Students also have the opportunity to hear exceptionally talented young organists in the annual finals of the competition and winner's recital and can choose to assist with the competition as an intern.

Arts leadership: Organ students are well positioned to take on a variety of internships and positions associated with the organ department. Among them are an internship to help administer the Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition in Organ Playing through the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; an internship focused on concert operations, promotion, and series development of the Malmgren Concert Series at Hendricks Chapel; a student director position for the Music and Mindfulness after-school program supervised by Hendricks Chapel's Office of Engagement Programs; an executive assistant for the 2018 Westfield Center conference on Syracuse legacies; and a director for a planned Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) in 2019.

Instruments: Syracuse University's Setnor Auditorium is home to a magnificent example of organbuilder Walter Holtkamp Sr.'s work. The three-manual [organ](#) built in 1950 possesses an historic organ citation from the Organ Historical Society and is the primary teaching, recital, and rehearsal instrument on campus. Students also have access to the 1952 three-manual [Holtkamp organ](#) in Hendricks Chapel and two practice instruments in the Setnor School of Music. Additionally, student organists have open invitations for lessons and practice time at a handful of notable instruments in the Syracuse area, namely the Roosevelt Organ at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Quimby organ at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Fisk organ at First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, and the Parsons organ at Holy Rosary Catholic Church.