

ABRAHAM DAVID ROSS

Montreal, Québec (residential) / Bangor, Maine (permanent)

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Education:

- McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
2019 – [in progress], expected graduation: May 2023
Doctor of Music in Organ/Church Music (performance degree, terminal for field)
- Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio
2016 – 2018
Master of Music in Historical Performance (GPA 3.82/4) / emphasis in combined keyboard instruments
- College of the Holy Cross, Worcester Massachusetts
Class of 2016
Bachelor of Arts in music, minor in Italian, *magna cum laude*, Italian National Honors Society (USA)

Skills:

- Language: English: native; Italian: advanced; French: intermediate; German: proficient academic reading/writing; Latin: proficient reading/translation
- Professional expertise in applied performance practice on period instruments, particularly in the interpretation, theoretical analysis, and stylistic study of baroque music (see research projects)
- Extensive experience in academic research under three separate professional-level grants (see Awards), as well as theses submitted for each of my three academic degrees.

Awards:

- McGill Graduate Travel Award – Research on the organ music of Johanna Senfter in Frankfurt, DE, Fall 2023
- FRQSC grant - Québec bourse d'études - 2021, renewed annually up to 2028
- Full-tuition award and research stipend, D.Mus. at McGill University, 2019-2022
- Finalist, International Sweelinck Competition, Amsterdam, NL, 2018
- Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (not accepted), 2018
- Full-tuition award, MM at Oberlin Conservatory, 2016-2018
- Gamma Kappa Alpha (National Italian Honor Society), College of the Holy Cross, 2016
- Full-tuition award as Organ Scholar at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, 2012-2016

- First place in the Boston Chapter of the AGO's Regional Competition for Young Organists – May, 2015
- Leadership and Service Award from Holy Cross– 2015
- Mellon Grant for Summer Research in the Arts and Humanities – 2014

Professional experience:

- St John's Evangelical German Lutheran Church, Montreal: Kantor/Director of Music – 2019-present
- First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, Guest Artist-in-Residence, June-August 2022
- St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Durham NC: Music Director – 2018-2019
- Co-Artistic Director, N.E.O. Voice Festival, Los Angeles, 2019-present, annually
- Course Instructor in Keyboard Pedagogy – McGill University, 2022
- Duke University Chapel: Organ Scholar – 2018-2019
- Church of the Covenant: Music Intern – 2016-2018
- First Congregational Church of Los Angeles: Summer Interim Organist – July 2018
- Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra: Young Apprentice Artist – 2018
- Blue Hill Bach: Principal harpsichordist/continuo – 2017-2019, annually
- Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute: Lead Accompanist – June 2017, June 2018

Research projects:

“The Art of Improvised Counterpoint in Early Modern Italy: The Contest between *Osservato* and *Commune*”

- Format: Lecture-recital with demonstrations, partial fulfillment for Doctor of Music, McGill (March 27, 2023)
- A theoretical study and practical application of the principles for contrapuntal improvisation as described in Adriano Banchieri's *L'Organo Suonarino* (1605) and Girolamo Diruta's *Il Transilvano* (1609)
- Original improvisations in historical style, pieces demonstrating contextual inferences, eight-piece choir/band under my direction
- Conclusions for the realization of figured-bass accompaniment and reconstruction of music by underrepresented northern Italians surviving in fragment or sketch only

“The Organ Works of Johanna Senfter (1879-1961), their Performance and Recontextualization”

- Research trip to Oppenheim, Mannheim, and Frankfurt under McGill Graduate Travel Award (March 8-19, 2023)
- Visits to the archives of the Senfter-Gesellschaft, Oppenheim and Max-Reger Institut, Karlsruhe, accessing correspondence, manuscripts, and sketches of the composer
- Practice and recordings at Catharinenkirche, Oppenheim, where the organ played by the composer survives

“Musica d'intavolatura”

- Format: Recital demonstration, partial fulfillment for Doctor of Music, McGill (December 1, 2021)

- Topic: Performance practice regarding baroque “intabulations,” or arrangements of instrumental or vocal music for one player at the organ
- Performance of representative written intabulations by Italian and north German baroque composers
- Programme notes explaining principles of ornamentation, idiomatic reform, and text-painting
- Original intabulations according to period practice:
Fuggi, pur se sai à 8, after Giovanni Gabrieli
Colei che già si bella à 5, after Alfonso Fontanelli
O de la bella Etruria invito Duce after Alessandro Striggio
- Programme information:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YmuKSfu0UwdkqSjm5yd9RoLbMHLA35HR?usp=sharing>

“Ives, Buck, and American Pedal Technique, 1860-1900”

- Format: Recital presenting research findings on performance practice in organ music for the pedals of late-nineteenth century America, Montreal 2020
- Two years of research in the Ives Papers at Yale’s Gilmore Music Library
- Full reconstructions of three lost works by Charles E. Ives:
 Polytonal canon from *Variations on America* (early version, 1891?)
 Prelude “for a (mild)revival service,” for Center Church New Haven on October 3, 1893
 Postlude for a Thanksgiving Service for Center Church, November 1897(?)
- Recital recording: <https://youtu.be/bLalJgFy4HE>
- Programme notes, bibliography:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MgRWi2QGaz9ST_r8Kw1QZlyK4F7tq9uM?usp=sharing

Musical training:

Organ: Dr. Isabelle Demers, 2022-present
 Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, 2021-2022
 Mr. Hans-Ola Ericsson, 2019-2021
 Dr. Jonathan Moyer, Oberlin, 2016-2018
 Mme. Marie-Louise Langlais, Oberlin, Fall 2016
 Dr. James David Christie, College of the Holy Cross, 2012-2016

Conducting: Dr. Philip Cave and Mr. Christopher Jacobson, FRCO 2018-2019
 Dr. Matthew Garrett, Case Western Reserve University, 2016-2018
 Dr. David Harris (as Assistant Conductor of the HC College Choir), 2014-2015

Harpsichord: Dr. Mark Edwards, Oberlin, 2016-2018
 Mr. Francesco Cera, 2014

Fortepiano: Dr. David Breitman, Oberlin, 2017