



Organist Profiles: Tabernacle Organists 2020

Information from www.thetabernaclechoir.org



Richard Elliott:

Principal Tabernacle Organist

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, and former student at the Peabody Conservatory and the Catholic University of America, Richard Elliott earned a bachelor of music degree from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and master's and doctoral degrees from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

A former assistant organist for Philadelphia's famed Wanamaker organ, he currently sits on the advisory boards for the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ and the Eccles Organ Festival at Salt Lake City's Cathedral of the Madeleine. Prior to his appointment as Tabernacle organist in 1991, he was an assistant professor of organ at Brigham Young University. He and his wife, pianist

Elizabeth Cox Ballantyne, are the parents of two sons.



Andrew Unsworth:

Andrew Unsworth, one of the three full-time organists on Temple Square, was born into a musical family, so it isn't surprising that he would become a professional musician. Realizing there might not be many opportunities for organ performance, he went to graduate school and earned a PhD in music history from Duke University in North Carolina, USA, preparing to teach at the university level. When Brother Unsworth learned that an organ performance position was open at the Catholic Church's Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, he applied and was appointed. He learned how to play big services and accompany choirs on-the-job at the cathedral.

Brother Unsworth was appointed as the 13th full-time organist to serve on Temple Square, beginning his service in July 2007. He received the Associateship certificate, awarded to the organist with the highest exam score on his or her particular certificate, and the S. Lewis Elmer Award, awarded to the person with the highest score of any of the 82 test-takers. Winning one award is a tremendous accomplishment, but winning two awards is a rare feat.



Brian Mathias:

Prior to his appointment as a Tabernacle organist in January 2018, Dr. Brian Mathias served as an adjunct faculty member at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. He also served as Associate organist at Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mathias earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Kansas, where he studied organ with James Higdon and carillon with Elizabeth Berghout. He received Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Brigham Young University, studying organ with Don Cook and Douglas Bush and carillon with Don Cook.



Linda Margetts

part time Tabernacle organist

Linda Margetts has been a Temple Square organist since 1984 and brings an impressive list of accomplishments to her role as Tabernacle organist. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in organ performance from Brigham Young University and her PhD in music composition from the University of Utah. She has presented recitals throughout the United States and Canada as well as in such international venues as Vienna and Jerusalem.

Dr. Margetts has been a member of the music faculty at Utah State University and is currently an organ instructor at the University of Utah. She has lectured at the Church Music Workshop at Brigham

Young University and has held a number of key committee assignments as a fellow of the American Guild of Organists. Linda Margetts and her husband, Bert, are the parents of six children.



Joseph Peeples

part time Tabernacle organist

Joseph Peeples was appointed Friday April 12, 2019. Prior to his appointment, Peeples was the university organist at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California, where he taught courses in applied organ, keyboard harmony, and music appreciation courses. He received his master's degree in organ performance from Brigham Young University (BYU). While at BYU, he studied organ with Don Cook and Douglas Bush, conducting with Rosalind Hall, and carillon with Don Cook. He has completed coursework for a doctorate at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he studied organ with Janette Fishell,

Christopher Young, and Bruce Neswick. Peeples is on the faculty for the annual Brigham Young University Organ Workshop and through the years has taught a wide variety of courses in music theory and musicianship at Pepperdine University, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and Brigham Young University.