

## **GABRIEL BENTON BIO**

**Gabriel Benton** is a keyboardist with a passion for bringing early music alive to contemporary audiences. As an undergraduate, this passion led him away from the piano to study harpsichord performance at Oberlin Conservatory. While there, he was involved in the Venice Opera Project, which brought an opera by Francesco Cavalli back to the stage in Venice for the first time since 1640. Subsequently, he obtained a Master's degree in historical performance from the Juilliard School, where he performed across the country and worked with luminaries in the field such as Jordi Savall, William Christie, Masaaki Suzuki, and Richard Egarr. He also holds a degree in organ performance from Yale's Institute of Sacred Music, where he was organist at the University Church in Yale.

In demand as a harpsichord soloist and continuo player, he has regularly performed across the country, most recently with ensembles Sonnambula in New York and La Speranza in Houston. He is a harpsichordist for American Bach Soloists, and he can be heard in three of their recording projects. Gabriel has been the recipient of several awards including first place in the York Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition, the Earl Russel Award in historical performance, the Charles Ives organ scholarship, and two summer workshop scholarships from Early Music America.

He currently lives in Wilmington, Delaware, where he is Director of Music and organist at the historic Grace United Methodist Church as well as teacher and accompanist at The Choir School of Delaware.