

R. Monty Bennett began musical studies at an early age in his native California. A graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, he was a student of Dr. James Welch, with whom he studied organ, carillon and harpsichord. Early keyboard studies were under the tutelage of William Bagileo, Herbert Nanney of Stanford University, and Dr. Roger Nyquist, of Santa Clara University.

Monty has performed around the world as an organist, accompanist and conductor. In 2005, he made his European debut playing a recital for the 22nd International Festival of Organists in Turin, Italy, where he played the European première of a collection of African-American spirituals by Calvin Taylor. He has performed for numerous chapters of the American Guild of Organists, as well as playing at major churches and universities across the county. He is a carillonneur and played his first European carillon recital on the 70 bell instrument installed at the Chapel of the Dukes of Savoy, Chambéry, France.

While the Associate Minister of Music/Organist at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC, he presided at the Calvary Grand Moller Pipe Organ, one of the largest musical instruments in the world. For 10 years, he served as the Principal Organist at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, where he designed and dedicated the five manual, 168 stop, Fratelli Ruffatti pipe organ. Most recently he was both the Membership/Music Director at Temple Israel and the Music Director/Organist at Park Road Baptist Church, both in Charlotte, NC, and now serves as the Director of Sacred Music of Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church, Lancaster, SC. In light of his musical accomplishments, he is listed in Who's Who in America and has been featured on the renowned American Public Media broadcast *Pipedreams*.

An active member of the American Guild of Organists from the age of 13, Monty holds the Colleague certification of the AGO and has served on the Board of the Charlotte Chapter, where he coordinated the chapter's nationally acclaimed Summer Recital Series. He is represented by Concert Artist Cooperative www.concertartistcooperative.com.

