

DR. EZEQUIEL MENÉNDEZ

Professor of Practice and Distinguished Artist in Residence
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, Massachusetts

AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

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01. General Employment

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts

Professor of Practice and Distinguished Artist in Residence | 2018–Present

- Curator, Taylor & Boody Opus 9 Organ, Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel
- Director, Chapel Artist Concert Series
- Instructor in Organ
- Co-Chair, Organ Scholar Program Committee

Since joining the faculty in 2018, Dr. Menéndez has worked to strengthen and expand organ study at the College of the Holy Cross. His responsibilities include individual organ instruction, mentoring Organ Scholars and other student musicians, stewardship of the College's organ resources, and the development of artistic and educational initiatives that enrich the musical, cultural, and spiritual life of the College.

Major accomplishments include:

- Reestablishment and redesign of the Organ Scholar Program

- Development of organ study opportunities for students from a wide range of academic disciplines
- Expansion of the Chapel Artist Concert Series through the presentation of nationally and internationally recognized performers
- Development of educational opportunities in organ performance, improvisation, liturgical music, and organ maintenance
- Ongoing stewardship, preservation, and enhancement of the College's organ resources

Ethel Walker School, Simsbury, Connecticut
Chapel Organist | 1994–Present

- Curator, Aeolian Skinner Organ, School Chapel
- Organist for Chapel Events

Archdiocese of Hartford / Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, Connecticut
Director of Music | 1999–2024

Led the Cathedral's music program for twenty-five years, overseeing its liturgical, choral, instrumental, concert, educational, and organ-preservation initiatives.

- Transformed the Cathedral's volunteer choir into a professional ensemble that performed throughout the United States and internationally, including engagements at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., and Saint Patrick's Cathedral, New York, and tours to Canada and Argentina.
- Founded and developed the Schola Cantorum, collaborating with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and Hartford Symphony Orchestra in major performances including Duruflé's *Requiem* and Britten's *War Requiem*.
- Founded the Cathedral Brass Quintet and Soli Deo Gloria Chamber Orchestra, providing instrumental leadership for major Christmas, Easter, and diocesan liturgies.
- Founded and directed Sacred Sounds at the Cathedral, presenting internationally recognized organists and ensembles in concert.
- Performed and recorded with internationally recognized organists including Olivier Latry and Johann Vexo, including Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* for two organs and choir and Widor's *Messe à deux chœurs et deux orgues*.
- Founded Hartford Concerts for Charities, using musical performances to raise funds for humanitarian and community projects, including initiatives in Haiti and Sri Lanka.
- Served as an organ consultant to the Archdiocese of Hartford, facilitating the preservation and relocation of eleven pipe organs and advising parishes on new organ installations, maintenance, and cost-effective solutions.

- Founded the Archdiocesan Youth Choir and developed international educational opportunities for young musicians, including the 2017 Children's Choir Festival at the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, Spain, culminating in a concert attended by more than 1,200 people.
- Provided musical leadership for archdiocesan liturgies, priestly convocations, funerals, retreats, and other diocesan events, and assisted clergy with music for Morning and Evening Prayer.
- Led improvements to the Cathedral's sound system and established live streaming of Cathedral liturgies during the COVID-19 pandemic; more than 500 hours of recordings were subsequently preserved in the Cathedral archives.
- Mentored young organists and church musicians, providing opportunities for students to participate in liturgies, concerts, and international organ study tours.
- Presented lectures and programs for the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, American Guild of Organists, and National Association of Pastoral Musicians.
- Recorded and performed major organ repertoire, including the complete Mendelssohn's Organ Sonatas and the Poulenc Organ Concerto with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra.
- Recipient of the Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation from the Archdiocese of Hartford for twenty-five years of service; Paul Harris Award, Rotary International; and recognition from the Connecticut General Assembly for contributions to the community.

University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, Connecticut

Music History Faculty and Organist in Residence | 2008–2018

- Initiated a new scholarship program for students participating in the **University Chapel Choir, The Troy Honorarium Choir**, developing fundraising efforts to provide financial support for student singers.
- Expanded opportunities for students to engage in choral music, liturgical music, and organ performance through the University's chapel program.
- Provided organ and musical leadership for University liturgies and special events.
- Taught courses in **Music History**, integrating historical, liturgical, and performance perspectives into the curriculum.
- Supported the development of student musicians through performance opportunities, mentoring, and participation in the University's sacred-music program.

Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut

Professor of Organ | 2000–2009

The Hartt School Community Division, West Hartford, Connecticut
Professor of Organ | 1998–2007

Saint Ann Church, Avon, Connecticut
Director of Music | 1992–1998

Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel at Yale, New Haven, Connecticut
Director of Music | 1990–1992

Liceo Naval Militar, La Plata, Argentina
Professor of Music | 1987–1990

Colegio Eucarístico, Argentina
Professor of Music | 1987–1990

02. TEACHING AND MENTORING

College of the Holy Cross | 2018–Present

Dr. Menéndez teaches organ and mentors students in performance, repertoire, liturgical music, conducting, improvisation, and professional development. His work emphasizes artistic excellence, service, leadership, and Jesuit educational values.

Teaching responsibilities include:

- Individual instruction in organ performance
- Mentoring Organ Scholars and non-scholar organ students
- Advising students pursuing graduate study and professional careers
- Preparation of students for liturgical leadership and public performance
- Guidance in repertoire selection, practice techniques, and professional development
- Continuing mentorship of graduates after completion of their Holy Cross studies

Select Student Achievements (Alumni)

Gavin Klein '26

Graduate studies at Yale University. Winner of the National Undergraduate Organ Competition (2025). Recognized among the nation's "20 Under 30" young organists (2025). Organ Scholar, Trinity Church, New Haven, Connecticut.

Matthew Lucan '22

Master's Degree in Organ Performance, Indiana University (2024). Doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music. First Prize Winner, Arthur Poister Competition in Organ Playing (2026).

Michelle Sacco Murphree '21

Organ Scholar. Master's Degree in Organ Performance, University of Notre Dame (2023). Music Director, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, Houston, Texas.

Lorraine Mihaliak '20

Organ Scholar. Graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame; Master's Degree in Choral Conducting and Organ (2022). Music Director, Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Current Organ Students

- Benedict Saylor, Organ Scholar, Class of 2030
- Kaitlyn Foppe, Brooks Scholar, Class of 2030
- Jessica Nguyen, Organ Scholar, Class of 2028
- Matthew McDonough, Class of 2028

03. ORGAN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Co-Chair, Organ Scholar Program Committee

Dr. Menéndez plays a central role in the reestablishment and growth of the Organ Scholar Program at the College of the Holy Cross.

Responsibilities include:

- Recruitment, audition, and selection of Organ Scholars
- Liturgical training and preparation
- Instruction in hymn playing, psalm accompaniment, and anthem preparation

- Preparation for Lessons and Carols and major College liturgies
- Introduction to improvisation
- Development of performance opportunities
- Student participation in organ maintenance and educational projects

The program integrates musical training, liturgical leadership, service, and professional preparation while contributing to the College's mission and worship life.

04. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE TO THE WORCESTER ORGAN COMMUNITY

- Collaboration with the **Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO)**, a national professional organization with local chapters dedicated to advancing the art of the organ and supporting organists, church musicians, educators, and the broader organ community.
- Development of concerts, educational programs, organ demonstrations, and performance opportunities connecting the College of the Holy Cross with the Worcester organ community.
- Collaboration with **Music Worcester** on a major long-term project exploring the complete organ, orchestral, and choral works of Johann Sebastian Bach (2028).
- Development of a five-year initiative to present the **complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach** at Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel, comprising approximately **14 concerts** and featuring distinguished local, national, and international organists.
- Development of opportunities for Holy Cross students and Organ Scholars to participate in Bach performances and related educational activities.
- Collaboration with the **Organ Historical Society**, with the College of the Holy Cross selected as a venue for the Society's national and international convention in **summer 2027**.
- Participation in Pipe Organ Encounter programs and other educational initiatives promoting awareness and appreciation of the pipe organ.
- Development of partnerships with regional cultural and musical organizations to increase the visibility of organ music and strengthen Holy Cross's role in the Worcester musical community.

05. CHAPEL ARTIST CONCERT SERIES

Director | 2018–Present

Dr. Menéndez directs and curates the Chapel Artist Concert Series, an annual concert series that brings internationally recognized artists, emerging performers, faculty, alumni, and students to Saint Joseph Memorial Chapel.

- Promote diversity and inclusion through programming that brings together performers of different nationalities, backgrounds, races, genders, and artistic perspectives, while presenting a broad and diverse range of composers, musical traditions, and repertoire.
- Develop programming that combines artistic excellence, education, and cultural enrichment, contributing to the cultural and spiritual life of the College and the broader Worcester community.
- Expand access to organ and sacred music for students across all disciplines, including students with little or no prior exposure to the pipe organ tradition.
- Provide opportunities for students to experience world-class performances and interact with leading artists in the exceptional acoustical and sacred setting of St. Joseph Memorial Chapel.
- Strengthen the visibility and reputation of the series through the presentation of artists of national and international prominence.

Featured artists have included:

- Olivier Latry, Notre Dame, Paris, France
- Nathan Laube, Eastman School of Music, USA
- Johann Vexo, Nancy Cathedral, Nancy, France
- Renée Louprette, Rochester, USA
- Craig Cramer, University of Notre Dame, USA
- Kaitlyn Emerson, London, England
- Martin Jean, Yale University, USA
- Julia Brown, Grand Rapids, USA
- James O'Donnell, Yale University, USA
- Matthew Luca, Former Holy Cross Student. Eastman School of Music, USA

The series also regularly features members of the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Holy Cross Organ Scholars.

2026–2027 Season

- September 1, 2026, 7:00 p.m. — James O'Donnell, Yale University; former Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey, London. All-Bach recital.
- October 27, 2026, 7:00 p.m. — Johann Vexo, Cathedral of Nancy, France; former Organist of Notre-Dame de Paris.
- November 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m. — Sándor Kádár and Levente Kuzma; Hungarian organists, special recital on the Taylor & Boody organ.
- November 15, 2026, 12:30 p.m. — Jessica Nguyen '28, Holy Cross Organ Scholar Recital.
- November 22, 2026, 3:00 p.m. — Ezequiel Menéndez, Professor of Organ and Artist in Residence, College of the Holy Cross. Saint Cecilia recital featuring settings of *Vater unser im Himmelreich* ("Our Father, Who Art in Heaven").
- February 21, 2027, 3:00 p.m. — Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, featuring Jennifer Velázquez, Katherine Ou, and Brett Maguire.

- April 6, 2027, 7:00 p.m. — Mark Brombaugh, Adjunct Instructor in Organ, Yale University.
- April 25, 2027, 12:30 p.m. — Ben Saylor '30, Holy Cross Organ Scholar Recital.

06. Select Performances

2026

- Cathedral of the Madeleine — Salt Lake City, Utah
- Methuen Memorial Music Hall — Methuen, Massachusetts
- Prior Performing Arts Center — *Vivaldi: Gloria* with the College of the Holy Cross Choirs and Orchestra
- Cathedral of Szeged — Szeged, Hungary
- Jezus Szíve-templom (Sacred Heart Church) — Senta, Serbia
- San Pablo y San Benito — Madrid, Spain
- St. Cornelius Church — Viersen, Germany
- Ethel Walker School — Simsbury, Connecticut

2025

- Basilica of the Sacred Heart — Newark, New Jersey
- Grand Rapids Congregational Church — Grand Rapids, Michigan
- College of the Holy Cross — Worcester, Massachusetts
- All Saints Church — Worcester, Massachusetts (Pipe Organ Encounter)
- Mechanics Hall — Worcester, Massachusetts
- Ethel Walker School — Simsbury, Connecticut
- Nuestra Señora de la Merced — Buenos Aires, Argentina (with choir)
- Palacio Libertad — Buenos Aires, Argentina (with the Coro Polifónico Nacional)
- Nuestra Señora de Magdalena — Magdalena, Argentina
- Iglesia San José — La Plata, Argentina

2024

- Cathedral of Saint Joseph — Hartford, Connecticut (with Johann Vexo and multiple choirs)
- College of the Holy Cross — Worcester, Massachusetts
- Congregational Church — West Hartford, Connecticut
- Basilica of Saint Anne — Waterbury, Connecticut
- Saint John's Episcopal Church — Torrington, Connecticut (with Chorus Angelicus)
- Saint James Church — Norfolk, Connecticut (with Chorus Angelicus)
- Ethel Walker School — Simsbury, Connecticut

SELECT PERFORMANCE VENUES (2000-2026)

- Notre-Dame Cathedral — Paris, France
- Saint-Sulpice — Paris, France
- Altenburg Cathedral — Altenburg, Germany
- Teatro Colón — Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Teatro Argentino — La Plata, Argentina
- Palacio Libertad — Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Harvard University — Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Yale University — New Haven, Connecticut
- El Escorial — Madrid, Spain
- San Pablo y San Benito — Madrid, Spain
- Cathedral of Guadalajara — Guadalajara, Mexico
- Methuen Memorial Music Hall — Methuen, Massachusetts

SELECT MAJOR PERFORMANCE PROJECTS

- **Felix Mendelssohn — Complete Organ Sonatas**
Harvard University
- **Works of Mahler, Duruflé, Saint-Saëns, Berlioz, Handel, and Britten**
Yale University as Organist of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra

SELECT ORCHESTRAL APPEARANCES

Soloist with:

- Hartford Symphony Orchestra
- New Haven Symphony Orchestra
- Orquesta Estable del Teatro Colón
- Orquesta Estable del Teatro Argentino
- Orquesta de Cámara de la Municipalidad de La Plata
- Hartt School Symphony Orchestra

SELECT CONVENTION PERFORMANCES

- American Guild of Organists — National Conventions
- American Guild of Organists — Regional Conventions
- Organ Historical Society
- National Association of Pastoral Musicians
- National Convention of Cathedral Musicians

07. PUBLICATION

Historic Organs of Argentina

Dr. Menéndez has conducted extensive research on the historic pipe organs of Argentina and authored *Historic Pipe Organs in Argentina: A Hidden Treasure*, one of the most comprehensive reference works on the country's historic pipe organs (Boston University, 2006).

08. ORGAN CONSULTING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Select Projects:

- Saint Thomas Chapel, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center — Bloomfield, Connecticut
- Saint Peter Claver Church — West Hartford, Connecticut
- Sacred Heart Church — New Britain, Connecticut
- Saint Francis Church — New Haven, Connecticut
- Saint Ann Church — Avon, Connecticut
- Avon Old Farms School — Avon, Connecticut
- Saint Mary's Church — Milford, Connecticut
- Sacred Heart Church — Bloomfield, Connecticut
- Shrine of Saint Anne (Choir Organ) — Waterbury, Connecticut
- Church of the Sacred Heart — Waterbury, Connecticut
- Seminario Mayor — Huancavelica, Peru

09. SELECT RECORDINGS

- *French Music at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph*
- *Ezequiel Menéndez LIVE: Pre-Bach Repertoire* (College of the Holy Cross)
- *Felix Mendelssohn: Organ Sonatas, Op. 65* (Harvard University)
- *Louis Vierne: Messe Solennelle* — with Olivier Latry
- *Charles-Marie Widor: Mass for Two Organs and Choir* — with Johann Vexo
- More than 500 hours of music recorded for streamed and televised liturgies

10. SELECT COMPETITION ADJUDICATION

- American Guild of Organists Regional Competition
- Tariverdiev International Organ Competition, Russia
- L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition

11. SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Steering Committee, Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians
- Board of Directors, National Association of Pastoral Musicians
- Liturgy and Music Subcommittee, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.
- Dean, Hartford Chapter, American Guild of Organists

12. SELECT ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Lectures
- Masterclasses
- Organ demonstrations
- Organ consultation
- Historical organ research
- Sacred music advocacy

Historical Organ Tours

- Organizer and Tour Leader of educational tours focusing on historic pipe organs in San Sebastián, Spain; Toulouse, France; and Buenos Aires, Argentina, including lectures, demonstrations, and performances on significant historic instruments.