

**Matthew Johnson** (Principal Organist) is 22 years old and originally from Issaquah, WA. Matthew began piano lessons at the age of five and, inspired by the beautiful sacred music of St. James Cathedral in Seattle, Matthew became interested in organ. He began his organ studies with Dr. Clint Kraus and later studied with Mr. Joseph Adam. His passion for organ crystallized while attending an organ camp at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan when he was thirteen years old. Since then, Matthew has won numerous awards and scholarships including the Interlochen Center for the Arts Fine Arts Award in Organ, Young Talent Award for the International Organ Festival in Haarlem, Netherlands, Philadelphia Young Artist Organ Institute, as well as medals in piano and organ at Musicfest Northwest in Spokane. His music endeavors have led him to study organ in France on a few occasions. Matthew was also honored to serve as the Organ Scholar at St. James Cathedral in Seattle and as a substitute organist at Blessed Sacrament in Seattle, where Matthew Loucks served as Director of Sacred Music.

Matthew Johnson will soon graduate with a degree in Organ Performance (Bachelor of Music) from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec where he studied with Professor Hans-Ola Ericsson, Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, and Mr. Christian Lane. While in Montreal, Matthew held the Organ Scholar position at St. Andrew & St. Paul Presbyterian Church.

Matthew is very excited to be a part of the music program at St. Thomas. He is especially looking forward to playing in Catholic Masses again. Matthew feels blessed to be able to use his talent to enrich the Sacred Liturgy at St. Thomas.