

Jonathan Ortloff

An organ builder, scholar and classical and theatre organist, Jonathan Ortloff holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester in organ performance and interdisciplinary engineering. While at Eastman, he was a student of David Higgs and studied improvisation under William Porter.

As a performer, Jonathan has excelled as a young theatre organist, winning the American Theatre Organ Society's 2008 Young Theatre Organist Competition, and since performing for theatre organ groups throughout the United States, including programs at national conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society. He has two recordings to his credit, *Clang Clang Clang* recorded in 2009, and *Roll Out the Big Guns!*, recorded live in 2010. Both albums feature drummer Allan Ward.

Jonathan is currently employed by Spencer Organ Co. of Waltham, Massachusetts, having served a nine-year apprenticeship with Russell & Company Organ Builders of Chester, Vermont. He has worked for some of the most renowned organ builders and restorers in the United States including C.B. Fisk, Russell & Company, Paul Fritts & Company, Spencer Organ Company, and Jonathan Ambrosino. He directs the ongoing restoration of Wurlitzer Opus 970 to be installed in the Strand Theatre in his hometown of Plattsburgh, New York, and maintains a small organ maintenance business.

His scholarly interests, mainly in the fields of organ history and preservation, have led to publication in *The American Organist*, *Theatre Organ*, *The Diapason*, and *The Tracker*. He currently serves on the Organ Historical Society's Publications Governing Board.

A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Jonathan makes his home in Boston, spending his free time skiing, hiking or paddling the mountains and streams of New England.