

Mario Buchanan

Organist and piano accompanist

Mario Buchanan serves as Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church. He oversees all aspects of the music program, including an Adult Choir, a choral scholar program of six singers, and an RSCM-affiliated Young Choristers program.

An active recitalist, Mario has performed solo recitals at Trinity Church, Copley Square; St. Philip's Cathedral, Atlanta, and Holy Trinity Lutheran, Akron. Upcoming engagements include Bruton Parish, Williamsburg and Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown. Mario is also in high demand as an accompanist and collaborative organist. In 2022, Mario had the distinct honor of working with the Cleveland Chamber Choir on music by Cecilia McDowall while the composer was in residence. As a singer, Mario has been active in various choral ensembles. During his college years, Mario received the distinction of winning the 2014-15 Concerto Competition at the University of Akron, the first organist to win the award. He performed the *Concerto for Organ and Orchestra in G minor* by Francis Poulenc with the University of Akron Symphony Orchestra to great acclaim.

Born and raised in Akron, Mario is a graduate of the University of Akron where he earned a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance, studying primarily with Valerie Thorson and secondarily with Nicole Keller. He has received additional organ instruction from Todd Wilson, Marie-Louis Langlais (widow of Jean Langlais), James David Christie, and Craig Cramer.

Mario studied choral conducting with Dr. Samuel Gordon, Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan, and has participated in masterclasses with Dr. William Weinert, Dr. Ann Howard Jones, Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, and John Nelson. Mario is the past Dean of the AGO Akron Chapter and past Music in Worship Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association(OCDA). He currently serves as the Chair of the Lay Professional Advocacy Committee (LPAC) for the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM), which advocates for church musicians at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.