



# ORATORIO SINGERS

WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

## Our Director

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Trent Johnson, the music director of Oratorio Singers of Westfield, New Jersey, is also the Organist and Assistant Director of Music of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City. He is an organist, composer, pianist and conductor. As conductor of the Oratorio Singers, he has led this organization in much of the standard literature of Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Verdi, Dello Joio, Bernstein, Kodály, Poulenc and others, as well as several premières of his own works. He is a graduate of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University and The Juilliard School. Major conducting influences have come from his work with Frederick Prausnitz, Dr. David A. Weadon and Norman Scribner of the Choral Arts Society of Washington DC. An active organ recitalist, Mr. Johnson frequently performs in the major churches of New York City, Washington DC, Boston and Northern New Jersey. In 2004, he was one of four American organists invited to participate in the Second International Organ Festival in Kyiv, Ukraine. Here, he played four organ recitals and gave a master class in composition. In 2005, the Peabody Institute invited him to give an organ master class and featured him in recital as both organist and composer. He recorded the organ works of Pulitzer Prize winning composer George Walker for Albany Records. Other musical journeys have taken him to Germany, Holland, Belgium, England, France and Japan.

Mr. Johnson is an organist at Radio City Music Hall in New York City where he plays for the Christmas Spectacular Show. The New York Theater Organ Society invited him to appear in recital on the “Mighty Wurlitzer” organ at the Music Hall.

As a composer, recent premieres include his opera *Kenyatta*, commissioned by Trilogy: An Opera Company, which premiered in 2017 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, NJ, the oratorio *Wittenberg - The Story of Martin Luther* (2018), *The Wisdom of Solomon* (2016), a work for chorus, brass ensemble, organ, timpani and percussion, *Saint Augustine* (2014), a cantata for soloists, chorus and orchestra and his *Concertante for Organ and String Quartet* (2011), commissioned by the American Guild of Organists. As a recording artist, Mr. Johnson can be heard on Summit Records, Albany Records and the Xtreme Label.

Mr. Johnson is the recipient of grants from Meet The Composer, funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, and is the 2004 recipient of the Wladimir and Rhoda Lakond Award in composition from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York City.

Truly a teaching director, under his leadership the Oratorio Singers has grown and developed into a top-notch performing group.